

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Volume 2, No. 333 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2005

# DOD scolded for not reimbursing troops

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## Blitz in Buhriz

Troops search  
Iraqi city for  
insurgents,  
weapons and  
explosives

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Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment break down a gate Tuesday in Buhriz, Iraq, while searching the city during Operation Rock Hammer. In coming days, soldiers and interpreters will explain to city residents the reasons for the raid.

CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes



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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Flight 93 memorial:** A memorial honoring the 40 people who died when hijacked Flight 93 crashed in a Pennsylvania field during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks will cost \$30 million, according to a study.

The \$30 million primarily will be used to build the memorial, but the money also will go toward roads, parking lots and a visitor's center.

A capital campaign will be organized to raise donations, said Joanne M. Hanley, superintendent of the proposed memorial.

A national competition to design the memorial yielded five finalists who have until June 15 to submit more detailed plans for the crash site near Shanksville, about 65 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. A panel will select a winning design by Sept. 11.

**L.A. murder fugitive:** Jesse James Hollywood, a fugitive wanted in the August 2000 kidnapping and slaying of a 15-year-old boy, has been captured, authorities in Los Angeles said Wednesday.

Sheriff Jim Anderson was scheduled to release details of the apprehension Thursday morning, according to a recorded message released Wednesday by the San Barbara County Sheriff's Department.

FBI sources also told The Associated Press that Hollywood has been taken into custody. Further details were not immediately available.

Hollywood was an alleged drug dealer who orchestrated a plot to kidnap and kill 15-year-old Nick Markowitz because of bad blood with Markowitz's half brother.

**Brain-dead inmate:** An inmate who was left brain-dead after being shot with a rubber bullet by a prison guard died from injuries from the projectile, according to an autopsy report released Wednesday.

Daniel D. Prevenco, 28, was shot in the head with the supposedly non-lethal projectile Jan. 16 during an altercation at Wasco State Prison. He was taken to Bakersfield's Mercy Hospital, where he remained in a coma and was hooked to a ventilator for weeks before he died Friday.

**Bus waste dumping:** A bus driver for the Dave Matthews Band pleaded guilty Wednesday to charges stemming from the dumping of 800 pounds of human waste from his vehicle's septic tank onto a sightseeing boat on the Chicago River.

Stefan Wohl was sentenced to 18 months probation and 150 hours of community service, said Tom Stanton, a spokesman for the Cook County state attorney's office. He also was fined the maximum of \$10,000, which will be paid to Friends of the Chicago River, a conservation group Wohl, 42, of Selma, Texas, was charged with reckless conduct and discharging contaminants to cause water pollution.

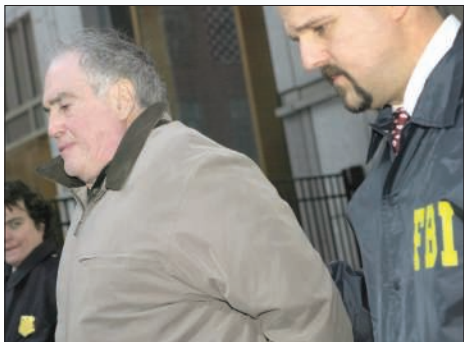
### World

**France pedophilia-ring trial:** A lead suspect in a massive pedophilia trial in Angers, France, who is accused of having sexually abused his grandchildren coldly told the court Thursday: "My kids, I don't love them."

The trial of 66 people accused of involvement in the rape, sexual abuse and forced prostitution of children, including some too young to walk, moved into a new phase with the grandfather and other suspects facing detailed questions about their background and personal histories.

The grandfather, who was previously convicted of raping his son, faces life imprisonment on charges of rape and sexual abuse of minors.

**Mosovo indictment:** The U.N. tribunal for



**Gambino family arrests:** Arnold Squitieri, center, accused underboss of the Gambino crime family, is led away Wednesday by federal agents in New York. Squitieri, the acting boss of the family, and at least 30 other mob figures were arrested after an undercover FBI agent posing as a hit man infiltrated the Mafia with an act so convincing he was considered for membership, authorities said. Also facing racketeering charges is reputed underboss Anthony "The Genius" Megale. Prosecutors said Squitieri, Megale and other defendants made millions of dollars through extortion, loansharking, illegal gambling and other crimes during the past decade.

the former Yugoslavia released its indictment Thursday against Kosovo's former prime minister, charging him with 37 counts of war crimes for alleged atrocities against Serbs.

Ramush Haradinaj, a former commander of the ethnic Albanian rebels who fought against Serb forces in Kosovo's 1998-99 war, surrendered to the court on Wednesday after resigning as prime minister of the province.

In the indictment unsealed by U.N. judges in The Hague, Netherlands, Haradinaj faces 17 counts of crimes against humanity for alleged murder, rape, persecution, inhumane acts, unlawful detention, deportation or forcible transfer of civilians. He also faces 20 counts of violations of the laws or customs of war for cruel treatment, murder and rape.

**Hong Kong leader:** Hong Kong's beleaguered leader said



Tung

Thursday he's quitting because of failing health — not pressure from his bosses in Beijing — as the global financial capital moved into a new political era that could bring power struggles, more demands for full democracy and meddling by China.

Tung Chee-hwa's resignation ended a political guessing game that dragged on for nearly two weeks in the former British colony that returned to Chinese rule eight years ago.

**Pope's health:** Pope John Paul II will extend his hospital stay "a few more days" but still plans to return to the Vatican in time for the start of Holy Week that begins on Palm Sunday on March 20, the pontiff's spokesman said Thursday.

No date had been given for the frail pope's return, but the announcement appeared to suggest there may have been a plan to release him earlier that was dropped to give him more time to regain his strength. At the hospital he is receiving only his closest aides, while back at the Vatican he might be tempted to resume regular audi-

ences with visiting bishops and foreign officials.

**Lebanon prime minister:** Lebanon's president, emboldened by a massive pro-Syria demonstration in Beirut, reinstated Omar Karami as prime minister on Thursday, 10 days after the Damascus-backed leader stepped down under popular and international pressure.

The move ensured Syria's continued dominance in Lebanese politics. Syria's allies felt they have the momentum in the political crisis and President Emile Lahoud's decision appeared to be in part political jockeying to show who sets the agenda as Syria's troop redeployment picked up.

**Serbia war crimes:** A former chief of police under Bosnia's wartime leader Radovan Karadzic was to surrender to the U.N. war crimes court at The Hague, Netherlands, the government in Belgrade said Thursday.

Mico Stanisic, who served as interior minister in the Bosnian Serb breakaway state led by Karadzic during the 1992-95 war, has decided to give himself up voluntarily after talks with government officials in Belgrade, a press release from the Cabinet said.

Recent Bosnian media reports claimed Stanisic had been indicted by The Hague tribunal and was living freely in Belgrade.

**Nepal civil liberties:** Nepal's King Gyanendra could soon restore some of the civil liberties he suspended after seizing power last month, the foreign minister said Thursday, a day after the government released several political detainees and promised to restore mobile phone services.

"Let me assure you that the temporary suspension of the rights of our citizens will be revoked sooner [rather than later]," Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey told some foreign diplomats in the capital, Kathmandu.

Pandey did not elaborate, but the diplomats interpreted his comments as an indication that the new royal government — which dissolved parliament and declared a state of emergency on Feb. 1 — was seeking reconciliation with political parties.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# Investigating faults troops for detainee abuses

BY JON R. ANDERSON  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A top investigator ordered by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to look into abuses at Abu Ghraib and other military detention facilities laid blame at the feet of individual troops and their commanders, but not top-level officials and policy-makers.

Reporting to the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday, Vice Adm. Al

Church reported his key finding was that "clearly, there was no policy written or otherwise at any level that directed or condoned torture or abuse."

Church

After more than 800 interviews and reviewing thousands of pages of documents, Church said that while officials in Washington could learn from "missed opportunities" in providing better guidance to field commanders, no specific blame could be cast.

"Nevertheless," he added, "we did identify problems."

Among his findings: ■ Leadership breakdown: Citing a "breakdown of good order and discipline" among some units, Church wrote in the unclassified version of the report's executive summary, "This breakdown

## Senior officers may yet face discipline

The fates of several senior officers still hang in the balance as officials wrap up investigations. While some have been cleared, others are expected to face disciplinary action even as civil lawsuits are being filed. Among those waiting:

**Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez** — Leader of U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq from April 2003 to July 2004. An internal Army investigation and independent panel found Sanchez failed to provide proper oversight at Abu Ghraib and issued confusing policies on interrogations.

**Stanis**: Under investigation. Remains commander of V Corps. Recently named in an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit under charges of war crimes.

**Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski** — Sanchez's deputy commander in Iraq and, until recently, at V Corps. Responsible for overseeing support to detention facilities as well as direct oversight of the 205th MI Brigade and 800th MP Brigade at Abu Ghraib. Previous investigations determined he failed to provide proper leadership.

**Stanis**: Recently assigned as special assistant to the commander of Army forces in Europe. Remains under investigation.

**Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast** — Senior intelligence staff officer under Sanchez. Questions have been raised about her involvement in Abu Ghraib.

**Stanis**: Exonerated by Army investigators and is expected to take command of Army intelligence training in Arizona soon.

**Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski** — Commander of 80th Military Police Brigade. Harshly criticized by investigators for weak and ineffectual leadership that created a climate at Abu Ghraib that led to the abuses. One investigation also accused her of "inhalant representations" during questioning.

**Stanis**: Suspended from command duties. Recently issued a letter of reprimand by Army Chief of Staff Dick Coste. Named in ACLU lawsuit.

**Col. Thomas Pappas** — Commander of 205th Military Intelligence in Iraq. Accused of multiple leadership failures, including improperly authorizing the use of dogs in interrogations.

**Stanis**: Remains commander of 205th MI Brigade, now redeployed home to Germany. Under investigation. Named in ACLU lawsuit.

**Lt. Col. Stephen L. Jordan** — Director of Joint Interrogation Debriefing Center. Accused of multiple leadership failures, including properly training and supervising his troops and for being deceitful during abuse investigations. Failure to obey direct orders to talk about the case with others. "He conducted an e-mail campaign soliciting support from others involved in the investigation."

**Stanis**: Under investigation.

— Jon Anderson

implies a failure of unit-level leaders."

■ Heat of combat: "The nature of the enemy, and the tactics it has employed in Iraq (and to a lesser extent in Afghanistan) may have played a role in this abuse," wrote Church, explaining that 23 out of 70 documented cases of abuse occurred at the "point of capture" when emotions are running high.

■ Ignored warning signs: Writing that he could not provide unclassified details, "there was a failure to react to early warning signs of abuse" by local commanders. Church testified that the Red Cross in particular had repeatedly raised red flags at Abu Ghraib, but that leadership reaction was "not as swift as it could have been."

Church, who until recently was

the Navy Inspector General and now heads the Navy staff at the Pentagon, took fire from various corners of the committee, however, for not delving deeper into some areas of concern.

Michigan Sen. Carl Levin, the ranking Democrat on the committee, was quick to take Church to task.

"There has been no assessment of accountability of any senior of-

ficials," Levin told Church. "The failure of accountability of senior leaders sends the wrong signal to our troops and the American people. It harms the United States' standing as a nation of laws, and undermines the high standards of our armed forces."

"The bland label of 'missed opportunities' does not explain the absence of policies," added Levin. "These are failures of command at high level."

Church, who earlier said he was ordered to review the investigations completed so far and fill in the gaps not covered by those reports, responded he was not tasked with delving into the question of leadership accountability.

In a heated exchange with Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, Church defended the Bush administration's decision to withhold Geneva Convention protections from captured Taliban soldiers in Afghanistan.

"You know the North Vietnamese made the same determination about American prisoners," said McCain, who, as a naval aviator spent five years at the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" after getting shot down during the Vietnam war.

"It's a good debate," responded Church.

"Well sir, I think it's a little more than a good debate," McCain said. "I am very concerned about what will happen to Americans who are taken prisoner unless we have clear, specific guidelines that we adhere to."

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## Last a funeral for at least 30 in Mosul

BY SINDBAD AHMED  
The Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a Shiite mosque during a funeral Thursday, killing at least 30 people, an attack that came as Iraq's main Shiite party and a Kurdish bloc said they reached a deal that sets the stage for a new government to be formed.

U.S. troops cordoned off the northeastern Tammeh neighborhood near the mosque, a poor area of the city crowded with many homes.

Civilian vehicles helped ambulances crews in ferrying casualties to hospitals.

"As we were inside the mosque, we saw a ball of fire and heard a huge explosion," said Tahar Abdullah Sultan, 45. "After that blood and pieces of flesh were scattered around the place."

Insurgents in the past have targeted Shiite mosques and funerals.

The U.S. military unit that controls the area could not immediately be reached for comment.

Mosul has been a hotbed of insurgent activity and the scene of many beatings, drive-by shootings and assassinations against the country's security services,

Iraq's Shiite majority and people thought to be working with U.S.-led forces.

The deal between the clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance and a Kurdish coalition will allow a new government to be named when the National Assembly opens next week.

It calls for the government to begin discussion on the return of about 100,000 Kurds to the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk and talks about redrawing existing Kurdish regions to include the city in Iraq's new constitution.

It also gives the Kurds just one more Cabinet post, far fewer than they demanded — in return for making one of their leaders, Jalal Talabani, Iraq's first-ever Kurdish president. One ministry will go to the country's Sunni Arab minority, which largely stayed away from the Jan. 30 elections.

The Kurds agreed to back conservative Islamic Da'wa Party leader Ibrahim al-Jaafari for prime minister.

Under the deal, any land agreement will be incorporated into the country's new constitution, which must be drafted by mid-August and approved by referendum two months later.

The dealmaking went on as violence continued against Iraq's se-



curity forces. In the latest strikes, gunmen killed two district police chiefs and two others Iraqis in attacks in Baghdad on Thursday. Also, an accountant working for a Kurdish television station was killed in northern Iraq.

Assaults in two cars opened fire on a pickup truck carrying Col. Ahmed Abies, the head of the Shiite police in western Baghdad, killing him, his driver and a guard, police Col. Khazim Abbas said.

In an Internet statement, a group claiming to be Al-Qaida in Iraq took responsibility for an attack in the same area on "an intelligence officer who used to investigate the Mujahideen and hurt them."

In a separate attack, gunmen also killed the chief of Jist Diyala in southeast Baghdad, Col. Ayad Abdul-Razaq, a police officer who on condition of anonymity.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,512 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,149 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Wednesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths: July, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Den-

mark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one each.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One soldier was killed Wednesday when his patrol was hit by an explosive in Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. Andrew L. Boswell, 24, Mountain City, Wis., and Army Pfc. Michael W. Franklin, 22, Coudersport, Pa.; died Monday in Ramadi, Iraq, when a vehicle-borne explosive detonated near them, assigned to the 44th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, Korea.

People help carry away the dead after a suicide bomber blew himself up Thursday during a funeral in the courtyard of a Shiite mosque in Mosul, Iraq. The attack killed at least 30 people and dozens.

AP

# Operation Rock Hammer strikes Buhriz



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes  
Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division enter a village near Buhriz, Iraq, on Tuesday while searching for weapons, explosives and insurgents during Operation Rock Hammer.

## Soldiers search Iraqi town for insurgents, weapons

BY CHARLIE COON  
Stars and Stripes

**BUHRIZ, Iraq** — The mission starts with a bang. A handful of artillery explosions crack through the pre-dawn sky, waking up the sleeping community. Fighter jets streak overhead, leaving a trail of sonic booms in their wake.

"Psychological warfare; it might make a guy think twice about picking up his AK-47," said Capt. Ryan Howell of St. Louis, commander of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, part of the 42nd Infantry Division's Task Force Liberty.

Operation Rock Hammer has begun. Now 500 troops — 375 American and 125 Iraqi soldiers — will blitz through Buhriz to seize illegal weapons, explosives and insurgents; they're especially on the lookout for two men suspected of leading election day attacks against polling stations.

Buhriz's 60,000 residents live in a place that offers strange mixes of primitive living and technological wonders, often under the same roof. A house might not have flush toilets but it does have a satellite dish on its roof.

For soldiers with vehicles, Buhriz can be difficult to enter since there are only two ways in and out, a road on either side of town.

But insurgents who know the terrain have many places to hide in the maze of homes and shops. Escape routes run through the acres of surrounding palm and date groves and across the Diyala River.

"I'm pretty excited that we're actually going out and doing something," said Spc. Robert Atchison of Gainesville, Fla. "We're going after the guys who are causing all the havoc."

Special operation soldiers and a group of select Iraqis led the way into town, targeting seven sites — four residents and three shops — suspected of harboring the top suspects and their cohorts.

For their role, the soldiers of Battery A look for weapons caches and fleeing suspects on the scores of goat trails running like a maze through the woods.

"There's a whole network of trails back here, and they're all well-worn," said Pfc. Keith Peacock of Las Vegas after one foray into the brush.

Searching the surrounding areas and city represents a gray area in the current state of security af-

fairs, Howell said. It is too insecure for normal police activity (if a normal police force existed). But in trying to win the peace, rolling tanks through town isn't the answer.

"Clearing operations don't always yield a lot," Howell said. "Sometimes you can make more enemies than you do friends. It also takes the people in the neighborhood know — 'don't harbor these guys.'"

"The police couldn't do this back in the States, but until police stations here stop getting mortared ...," Residents who can't fix anything damaged during a search, Howell said, can bring evidence of the damage along with three repair estimates to the Civil Military Operations Office in nearby Baquba. If they were innocent of wrongdoing, the victims can be reimbursed cash for the damage.

For all the firepower, it turned out very little was needed. There were no casualties, Howell said, either military or civilian.

Of the 11 detainees, Howell said, six tested positive for traces of explosive compounds on their hands. Neither Saddam Septi nor Dawoud Karim Hanan were captured.

The four hot spots detected by the helicopter turned out to be nothing. The final haul of weaponry was fairly modest. Several AK-47 automatic rifles with ammunition were found, as well as a homemade rocket launcher, two rocket-propelled grenades and some mortar rounds. Howell said that three improvised explosive devices were found and blown up.

That could be a good sign, he added, indicating that perhaps people there were buying into a future Iraq that was democratic and non-oppressive. "Everybody was expecting a little more action, a little more hype," Howell said. "Of course, we're not out of the woods yet. There could be some surprises on the way home."

There weren't. There were just a few glares. Some kids waved to the passing troops. One person threw a rock that hit a passing Humvee. Most people just stood and watched.

The operation would be followed up in coming days with soldiers and interpreters explaining to residents of Buhriz the reason for Tuesday's operation.

"We'll tell them, 'This is why we did this,'" Howell said.

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## GI's detain 11 suspected of election-day attacks

BY CHARLIE COON  
Stars and Stripes

**BUHRIZ, Iraq** — Soldiers detained 11 people Tuesday as part of Operation Rock Hammer, a search mission Tuesday in Buhriz, a city of 60,000 on the outskirts of Baquba.

"Most of the detainees were directly involved in the attacks on election day in Buhriz," said Capt. Jason Staratis of Youngstown, Ohio. "There were no major attacks, and this population didn't have a very good turnout for the election."

The purpose of the 42nd Infantry Division operation, conducted by 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment, was to arrest suspects in city attacks and to find weapons and explosives. Detainees were brought to a hollowed-out brick building on the city's edge.

"We search the detainees and safeguard them in this building," Staratis said. "In case we take fire, we want to make sure they're safe."

Staratis said the detainees were found at sites identified as places where insurgents were living or hiding. They were searched and photographed and had hands put over their heads. Their hands were tied behind their backs as U.S. soldiers stood guard.

They eventually would have their thumbprints scanned and would face interrogation by intelligence officers.

"We don't want them to see our faces and we definitely don't want them to know who [the other detainees are]," Staratis said. "That way they won't know what the other guy said."

### A little loco?

During the perils of war, soldiers sometimes need a steady presence to help them through bad times. Chaplain (Capt.) Derek Murray was ready to serve as the conscience of Tuesday's operation.

Murray, of North Berwick, Maine, was present to give reassurance to the wounded, compassion to the scared, and guidance to soldiers guarding the Iraqi detainees.

"I'm sort of the ethical thermometer," Murray said. "For example, God forbid if we ended up fighting in that cemetery over there. It would be a huge ethical and spiritual affront to these people. We would be encroaching on their faith, sort of like if we entered one of their mosques."

Murray, who goes unarmored to

the operations, said he likes being the battalion's "spiritual guy."

"You have to either be created or have a calling to be a pastor in these situations," Murray said.

"I'm probably a little of both."

### It's a bird ...

While some soldiers made their way into downtown Buhriz and searched homes and shops, others worked on the edge of town trying to ensure a safe trip back to base. One tool they used was the Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, or UAV.

The hand-launched UAV is a battery-powered aircraft that weighs about 4 pounds. A small propeller powers it through the sky as a video camera in its nose feeds pictures of the ground below to soldiers. From the ground, it sounds like a big mosquito flying overhead.

"We're flying over the routes back [to the base], searching for anyone planting roadside bombs, searching rooftops and sniper positions," said Spc. Gary Fries of Tucson, Ariz. "We haven't seen anything yet. They've got the road pretty well protected."

Fries said the UAV has a top speed of about 40 mph but a strong headwind can slow it down to about 5 mph. It is designed to fly for up to an hour, crash land and break apart upon impact, then quickly be reassembled for another sortie.

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Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment lead a detainee into a holding area. The detainee was apprehended during the battalion's operation Tuesday in Buhriz, Iraq.



# Senator knocks delays in reimbursing GIs

By LYLITA C. BALDOR  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department hasn't developed a plan to reimburse soldiers for equipment they've bought to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan despite requirements in a law passed last year, a senator says.

In a letter sent Wednesday to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., asked for details on the Pentagon's progress setting up the reimbursement program and questioned why it was not in place yet.

"Very simply, this is either negligence on their part, because they were not happy with this when it passed, or it's incompetence," Dodd told The Associated Press. "It's pretty outrageous when you have all their rhetoric about how much we care about our people in uniform."

Pentagon spokeswoman Lt. Col. Ellen

## Dodd wants to know why program to pay for war gear not yet in place

Krenke said Wednesday that Rumsfeld will respond to Dodd's letter after he has reviewed it. She had no comment on the progress of reimbursement regulations. The Defense Department provided no further comment Thursday.

Soldiers serving in Iraq and their families have reported buying everything from higher-quality protective gear to armor for their Humvees, medical supplies and even global positioning devices.

"There should be no higher priority for our government than ensuring that American troops are well-equipped, particularly those on the front lines of battle in Iraq and Afghanistan," Dodd wrote. "Given their immense sacrifices, as well as the critical con-

tributions of their families and communities, I hereby request that you immediately inform me as to the status of the Department's action to comply with this statutory requirement."

In response to complaints, Congress last year passed Dodd's amendment requiring the Pentagon to reimburse members of the armed services for the cost of any safety or health equipment that they bought or someone else bought on their behalf.

Under the law, the DOD had until Feb. 25 to develop regulations on the reimburse-



Dodd

ment, which is limited to \$1,100 per item. Dodd asked that Rumsfeld provide details on the department's progress. But he also said it was unclear what recourse he has, other than public embarrassment, to force the department to act.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who repeatedly decried the lack of equipment during his unsuccessful presidential campaign, said the Pentagon needs to move quickly to give the troops their reimbursement and armored Humvees.

"They should be living up to the letter of the law," Kerry said.

The latest emergency spending proposal for the war totals \$81.9 billion, including \$74.9 billion for the Defense Department. It includes \$3.3 billion for extra armor for trucks and other protective gear — underscoring a sensitivity to earlier complaints by troops.

Stars and Stripes editor Pat Dickson contributed to this report from Washington.

## Checkpoint in shooting was set for Negroponte

By PATRICK QUINN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — American troops who mistakenly killed an Italian intelligence agent last week on the road to Baghdad's airport were part of extra security provided by the U.S. Army to protect U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte, an American official said Thursday.

Italian intelligence agent Nicola Calipari was killed March 4 when U.S. troops opened fire on a car carrying him and Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, who had just been freed from insurgents.

"The mobile patrol was there to enhance security because Ambassador Negroponte was expected through," U.S. Embassy spokesman Robert Callahan said, confirming reports in Italian media. The newspaper La Repubblica reported Wednesday that the checkpoint had been "set up to protect the passage of Ambassador Negroponte."

It was not known if Negroponte, who was nominated last month by George W. Bush to be the new director of national intelligence, had already passed through the checkpoint.

The shooting took place about 8:55 p.m., about two hours before Baghdad's 11 p.m. curfew. No civilian cars are allowed on Baghdad's streets after curfew.

There was no immediate comment in Rome by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's office or the Foreign Ministry.

Several U.S. officials said as the ambassador, who is by far seen as the most important American in Iraq, normally travel by helicopter to avoid roadside bombs and insurgent attacks along the airport road, which are frequent. But U.S. officials in Iraq often vary travel routes and methods so as not to be predictable.

The U.S. Army has launched an in-



In this photo released Tuesday by Italian RAI TG1 national television, network military personnel are seen near a car said to be the one in which Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena was traveling with Italian operative Nicola Calipari on the way to Baghdad airport when it was fired upon by U.S. troops.

vestigation into the shooting, which has become a point of contention between the United States and Italy.

Berlusconi has questioned the U.S. Army's version of events, including a claim that the car was speeding and ignored signals to stop.

The Army has acknowledged the checkpoint was temporary but has provided no details about why it was set up.

The day after the March 4 shooting, a spokesman for the 3rd Infantry Division in Baghdad, U.S. Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, said the checkpoint where the shooting occurred had been set up temporarily and wasn't permanent.

Asked at the time about how easy it would be to see American troops at such a checkpoint at night, he said: "Depending on where it is, that could be difficult. But if you're seeing soldiers in military uniform with military equipment, if you know it's a dan-

gerous area, then — you need to maintain your awareness."

Berlusconi told lawmakers Wednesday that Calipari had informed an Italian liaison officer, waiting at the Baghdad airport along with an American officer, that he was heading there with a freed hostage. He said the car was traveling slowly and stopped immediately when a light was flashed at a checkpoint, before U.S. troops fired on the car.

The top U.S. general in Iraq has said he had no indication that Italian officials gave advance notice of the route the Italians' car was taking. In a statement released after the shooting, the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division, which controls Baghdad, said the vehicle was speeding and refused to stop.

The statement also said a U.S. patrol tried to warn a driver with hand and arm signals, by flashing white lights and firing shots in front of the car.

## British intel agents saw little detainee abuse, report says

By BETH GARDINER  
The Associated Press

LONDON — British intelligence agents witnessed fewer than 15 cases of improper treatment of detainees during more than 2,000 interrogations they observed or conducted in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, a parliamentary committee reported Thursday.

The Intelligence and Security Committee criticized Britain's intelligence services for failing to properly train agents in Geneva Convention rules on prisoner treatment, and described violations that ranged from interviewing hooded detainees to witnessing an American interrogation of a man who had suffered a nervous breakdown.

But the lawmakers said they did not believe there were additional cases of abuse beyond those they reported, and said none of the violations were as severe as the abuse uncovered at the U.S.-run Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

In most cases examined, prisoners were in U.S. custody. Some interviews were conducted by British agents, others by Americans.

The committee said the two interrogations of hooded Iraqi prisoners were the only cases of abuse by British agents, and blamed the incidents on an insufficient training, saying the intelligence workers involved did not know Britain's government had barred the practice.

In a number of cases, British agents witnessed improper treatment of detainees, the report said.

In one instance, a British intelligence agent observed an April 2002 U.S. military interview in Afghanistan of a prisoner who said he had suffered a nervous breakdown and complained of being held in solitary confinement, the report said.

British agents who visited one unidentified U.S.-operated detention center in Iraq reported that conditions there were "unacceptable" and the treatment of detainees "left much to be desired," the report said.

The British agents were mainly involved with interrogations of British national detainees who might have information about threats to Britain, the report said.

The report only examined the actions of British intelligence agents, not British troops, whose work is monitored by other government agencies and committees.

Three British soldiers were recently convicted at a court martial for abusing Iraqi civilians in the southern city of Basra in 2003.

In a related story, Australian lawmakers voted against holding an inquiry into allegations that the United States sends terror suspects to foreign countries to be tortured after a heated debate in parliament Thursday.

The left-wing Greens Party formally proposed a Senate inquiry following allegations by an Australian released from Guantanamo Bay in January that he had been sent to Egypt to be tortured.



An injured man is taken away after a garbage truck exploded Wednesday near a hotel used by western contractors in central Baghdad. Considering the size of the blast, the 30 American contractors injured in the suicide bombing were lucky to not have died. The blast ripped a hole in the parking lot at least 30 feet across.

## Risk to contractors rising

Baghdad bombing highlights dangers of working in Iraq

By PATRICK QUINN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A garbage truck loaded with explosives blew up Wednesday next to a Baghdad hotel housing U.S. workers, killing four people and wounding 30 Americans and 10 others in a suicide bombing that highlighted the danger of doing business in Iraq. The U.S. Embassy said four of the wounded American contractors suffered injuries requiring them to be flown to a hospital for treatment. No Americans were killed, it said.

They were killed given the size of the explosion. The blast ripped a hole in the parking lot at least 30 feet across and more than 10 feet deep, shattering most windows in the Sadeer hotel and rattling buildings hundreds of yards away.

Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility in an Internet posting for what it called an attack on the "hotel of the Jews."

"We have fulfilled our vow to take down the Jews and Christians," its military wing said.

A posting purportedly from the group's alleged leader, terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, responded on the same Web site that "you have relieved us by killing the enemy of God."

The risk taken by contractors working in Iraq has never been so great. They are regularly targeted by roadside bombs, attacked by insurgents and live in constant fear of kidnap and decapitation.

In a Jan. 30 report to Congress, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction said at least 22 employees of private contractors had been killed in Iraq while working on U.S. military and reconstruction contracts since the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

"Iraq's unsettled security environment continues to present grave risks for contractors and employees," the report said.

Citing Labor Department figures, it said attacks on work sites and contract employees in Iraq averaged 22 a week, and 728 people had made worker compensation claims for missing more than four days of work because of injuries.

The claims were reported to the Labor Department under the Defense Base Act, which requires all U.S. government contractors to acquire workers' compensation insurance for employees working in Iraq. Officials said the figures would not be updated again until the next quarterly report, in April.

To minimize the risk, contractors live in heavily fortified and bunker-like hotels, often driving in armored vehicles.

Insurgents have responded by devising new ways to get around security and using huge bombs.

On Wednesday, police said, insurgents wearing police uniforms first fatally shot a guard at a gate to the Agriculture Ministry, next to the Sadeer hotel. That allowed the garbage truck to enter the parking lot between the two buildings.

Other guards fired assault rifles and machine guns in an effort to disable the garbage truck, police said. The truck stopped just inside the gate and then exploded.

## Pa. university offers 4-year scholarships to troops' survivors

By SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., hopes the actions of one university "will embarras other institutions of higher learning into stepping up to support dependents of active-duty forces."

"I hope this will embarras other schools who talk the good game of supporting our troops but are not stepping up to the plate the way Widener is," Weldon said.

Widener University will offer undergraduate scholarships of up to \$100,000 for four years for students of troops killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan, school President James Harris announced Tuesday.

The U.S. death toll from the two operations is more than 1,650.

Until 1972, the 184-year-old university in suburban Philadelphia had been a military academy. Today it maintains a strong ROTC program and offers undergraduate programs in nursing, engineering, business, education, health and restaurant management, and liberal arts with a strong biology program, Harris said. Approximately 6,300 students attend Widener.

An annual \$25,000 payout would cover the \$21,900 tuition and leave money for books and such items. It would not cover room and board. The university will provide up to 16 scholarships a year, Harris said.

While Widener's program is the only one to offer a full four-year scholarship, about 500 of the nation's 3,300 institutions of higher learning have approached the Pentagon seeking support on programs that would benefit GI's and their families, said Gary Woods, director of Educational Opportunities at the Pentagon's office of Personnel and Readiness.

### Back to school

The Department of Veterans Affairs offers an educational and training benefit to spouses and children of U.S. active-duty military personnel killed or permanently and totally disabled. The benefit applies to families of Guard and Reserve personnel on active-duty status.

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program pays \$803 a month for 45 months to spouses and dependent children to pay for education at VA-approved universities, colleges, trade schools or training programs, said Dennis Douglass, the VA's deputy director of education and benefits.

The benefit is available for spouses up to 10 years after the military members are killed or disabled, and up to the age of 26 for dependent children, he said.

For additional information visit the Web at: [www.gibill.va.gov/education/C35pam.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/C35pam.htm), call 1-800-541-VA, regional Office, or call (888) 442-4551.

— Stars and Stripes

Widener's board of trustees voted unanimously to continue the program for several decades, especially because most children of troops killed today are young. University officials anticipate the bulk of applicants to come in 10 to 12 years, Harris said.

The amount of scholarships could change in the future to reflect inflation or rising tuition costs, he said.

The board also is seeking to raise money to offer additional scholarships, said trustee and retired Army Gen. John Tilielli Jr., a 1963 academy graduate.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: [jontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:jontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil)

## Security Council delays review of weapons inspectors in Iraq

By EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — After getting a fresh appeal from Iraq to end the costly work of U.N. weapons inspectors, Security Council members said the time to start examining their future is getting closer.

Chief inspector Demetrios Pappas raised a series of issues that members need to address in considering whether to wrap up the operation of the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission or change its mandate and he argued that U.N. inspectors could still play an important role, U.N. diplomats said Tuesday.

"What seems clear now is that the idea that the mandate should be revisited is now becoming a reality," Brazil's U.N. Ambassador Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, the current council president told reporters

after a meeting. "So this is a next step for the council."

But when this might be taken up remains murky.

Sardenberg said it was "very hard" to give a timetable, saying ideally it would be good to wait for a permanent Iraqi government to be elected under a new constitution, which is expected in December.

Meanwhile, he said, members need to prepare by addressing the many issues relating to inspections such as verification and certification that Iraq's weapons programs have been dismantled.

"This is a complex process that is starting," Sardenberg said.

"It doesn't mean that it will start only by the end of the year. It should start earlier than that."

The Iraqi government has been waging a public campaign to stop using Iraqi revenue to finance the commission, known as

UNMOVIC, which is responsible for eliminating Iraq's biological, chemical and long-range missile programs. It wants to do the same with the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is responsible for getting rid of its nuclear program.

In a letter to council members ahead of Tuesday's meeting, Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Samir Sumaidaie complained that Iraq's oil revenue is being used to fund two bodies "which have become irrelevant" — at a cost of more than \$12 million annually for UNMOVIC and \$12.3 million in the next two years for IAEA.

He asked the council to transfer about \$400 million of Iraq's oil money still in U.N. accounts to the country's development fund to be used for reconstruction and to address the immediate needs of the people.

U.N. inspections were initiated after the 1991 Gulf War in which invading Iraqi forces

were ousted from Kuwait. UNMOVIC and IAEA inspectors left Iraq just before the March 2003 U.S.-led war that toppled Saddam Hussein, and the United States had barred them from returning.

But U.S. teams continued the search and in an Oct. 6 report, chief U.S. arms hunter Charles Duelfer said his Iraq Survey Group found no weapons of mass destruction in the country, discrediting President Bush's stated rationale for invading Iraq.

Sumaidaie said the "new Iraq," with its elected government and commitment to peace, has no intention of embarking on any new weapons program and therefore "cannot possibly represent a source of threat."

But in his briefing to the council, Pappas asked whether the Iraq Survey Group's report was the final word or whether there was scope for an independent assessment of Iraq's disarmament.

# 'Smart' tails add brains to Aviano bombs

## GPS guides squadron's missiles to smaller targets

By RUSS RIZZO  
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — When the 510th Fighter Squadron leaves for Iraq in May, the pilots' F-16s will be equipped with one of the newest weapons available to the Air Force.

A new 500-pound satellite-guided bomb, called the Guided Bomb Unit-38, is the smaller version of its 2,000-pound brother, GBU-31, that was through-out Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While the larger bomb was successful in destroying large targets such as Saddam Hussein's main palace in Baghdad, the GBU-38 allows pilots to take out smaller targets with less risk of collateral damage or civilian casualties, Air Force weapons experts say.

"You can use a 2,000-pound bomb to take out a tank, but it's not good to," said Senior Master Sgt. Steven Lasz, superintendent of weapons standardization with

the 31st Maintenance Group at Aviano. "We're politically minded killers."

The GBU-38 holds 80 percent less explosive than the GBU-31, allowing the Air Force more flexibility in selecting targets during urban combat.

"We could drop in closer proximity to things that we didn't want to blow up," said Maj. John Wilbourne, of the 85th Test and Evaluation Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, where the bomb scored high marks in recent tests.

The bombs use global positioning satellite technology called Joint Direct Attack Munition — or JDAM — to find their targets. To make these "smart bombs," the military attaches a new tail to "dumb bombs" that have been used for decades. Inside the tail, a computer reads GPS coordinates and adjusts the tail rudders to move toward the target.

To add a \$18,000 high-tech tail to a Vietnam-era MK 82 bomb, and you've got a GBU-38. The bombs can be programmed with target coordinates before a flight or by pilots in the air.

The GPS-guided bombs are alternatives to laser-guided bombs, which could not be used in cloudy, foggy or rainy conditions, Lasz said.



RUSS RIZZO/Stars and Stripes

**To smarten a "dumb bomb," the military attaches a tail, like the one above on a GBU-31, that contains a computer that reads global positioning satellite coordinates to find its target. The kit costs about \$18,000.**

The biggest advantage of the new bombs for pilots is that "you can drop them and forget about them," Lasz said. No longer will pilots, or soldiers on the ground, have to keep a laser locked on a target until the explosion, Lasz said. Or wait for clouds to clear before a strike.

"If you go all-GPS, you can go on any mission no matter the weather," Lasz said.

An Alabama Air National Guard unit was the first to use the GBU-38 on Sept. 12, when F-16 Falcons dropped two of the 500-pound bombs on a two-story

building in Fallujah, Iraq, where terrorists were thought to be meeting, according to Central Air Forces-Forward. Since then, 84 of the 500-pound bombs have been dropped in Iraq, according to CENTAF.

And, in February, the 494th Fighter Squadron out of RAF Lakenheath, England, was the first to drop one in combat from an F-15E Strike Eagle, said Capt. Joseph Siberski, a weapons officer with the squadron.

The Navy dropped its first GBU-38 weeks later, when F-117A Nighthawks unloaded two

of them on another building in Iraq where terrorists were thought to be meeting, according to Naval Air Systems Command.

Members of the 555th Fighter Squadron from Aviano spent the past month learning to load and drop the GBU-38 with Wilbourne's squadron at Eglin Air Force Base.

Pilots in the 510th Fighter Squadron won't have the benefit of practice, Lasz said. But they should have little trouble, he said, since the bombs work similar to the larger version.

"Just with less of a bang," Lasz said.

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## Review ordered of missile defense testing

By BRADLEY GRAHAM  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The general in charge of the Pentagon's faltering effort to develop a system for defending the United States against a ballistic missile attacks said Wednesday that he has ordered a thorough review of all ground equipment used in testing and appointed a senior Navy officer to oversee future test preparations.

The moves by Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry "Trey" Obering III follow failed attempts in December and February to launch interceptor rockets in tests of the fledgling system. Both failures have been blamed on what defense officials say were minor glitches — a

flawed computer software code in December and a faulty silo retracting arm in February.

In a call with reporters, Obering expressed continued confidence in the system. He said that even without the launch of the rockets, the recent tests scored some successes by demonstrating the system's ability to track target missiles and generate intercept instructions.

But he acknowledged frustration at the tendency of simple snafus to foil the tests.

"The hard things about missile defense are accomplishing," Obering said. "The easy things are what we're having trouble with."

The testing setbacks have proven especially disappointing for the Pentagon, which has

been hoping to get into a rhythm of regular flight trials after a two-year hiatus in such experiments. The new tests are particularly important because they mark the first attempted flights of the system's interceptor missile, which is designed to fly into space and release a "kill vehicle" that steers into enemy warheads.

Obering said he hopes to run another intercept test by the end of April. He has created a new post — director of mission readiness — to manage future test preparations. The new post will be filled by Rear Adm. Kathleen Paige, who has led a parallel Pentagon effort to develop a ship-based system for intercepting short- and medium-range ballistic missiles. That program has scored successful intercepts in five out of six tries.

## Pentagon blames errant e-mail on 'spoofing'

By JON R. ANDERSON  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Whoops, said the Pentagon, disregard that press release we just sent out from the Islamic civil liberties group.

Falling victim either to hackers or automated e-mail crawlers, the Pentagon's American Forces Press Service inadvertently distributed a press release Wednesday from the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

"E-mail subscribers of the American Forces Press Service

today received a message, entitled 'ISLAM-INFONET: 'Hardball' Host Withdraws From Controversial FL Event,' from a group not affiliated with the Department of Defense," read an e-mail shortly after the press release was distributed to thousands of subscribers around the world.

"A processing error resulted in the unintentional distribution of that message," the note explained.

"We have a number of people who try to spoof the system," said an official with the AFPS. "We lit-

erally get a hundred of these a day."

Spoofing is akin to impersonating — sending an e-mail out pretending to be from a known source.

He explained that hackers, as well as automated marketing companies, routinely try to break through security measures in place to prevent such abuse. Pentagon Internet guards must sift through each of them separating out hacks from actual official releases before the "send" button is hit.

"In this case," he said, "we had

just migrated to a new computer system and someone hit the wrong command."

A spokesman for CAIR, a Washington-based Muslim advocacy group, said it had nothing to do with the infiltration.

"It wasn't us," said Ibrahim Hooper. "We didn't even know there was such a list."

Regardless, the Pentagon says it has boosted security.

"AFPS has taken steps to guard against a recurrence," reads the blazer, "and sincerely apologizes for the inconvenience."

E-mail Jon Anderson at: jonanderson@strips.osd.mil

# Gen.: Weather kept Marines from recruiting

BY SANDRA JONTZ  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — While neither rain, nor snow, nor dark of night keeps the postman away, bad weather apparently kept Marine Corps recruiters from their appointments and routes, said a Marine general Thursday.

The Corps has missed recruiting goals two months running. "It's easy to say it's the war in Iraq, but I'm not so sure," Lt. Gen. Jan. C. Huly, deputy commandant for plans, policies and operations, told a gathering of defense writers.

A harsh winter kept potential recruits indoors, and thus recruiters from signing them up.



Huly

The beginning of the calendar year is the hardest time to lure students who are just beginning to think about life beyond high school, Huly said.

But the Corps made a mistake in letting Marines eligible to become recruiters deploy to combat zones instead of the streets of America, Huly said, who has served as the deputy commanding general for the Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

"We didn't have as many recruiters on the streets as we wanted."

The Corps missed its February goal by 192 recruits, and January's goal by 84; the first time goals were missed in 10 years. "Let's just keep in context just how big this alleged iceberg is out there."

The service is adding recruiters over the next two years.

Additionally, the Corps is tasked with boosting its end strength by 3,000 this fiscal year for a total of 178,000 Marines.

Recruiters will not only be looking for the basic infantryman, but for Marines with an aptitude for languages, Huly said.

The Army also missed its February recruiting goals.

Army leaders have said that the failure is linked in part to public concern over the

Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, fueled by the near-daily reminders of American casualties.

To date, 1,664 U.S. troops have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, and more than 10,000 have been wounded.

"People are watching the news," Doug Smith, a spokesman for U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky., said last week. "They know the risks of military service in today's environment."

And the Pentagon's top spokesman, Lawrence D. Rita, said in early March that with a nation at war, parents are seeing their influence over their children to steer decisions away from military service.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil

## WWII vet struggles to get VA benefits

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS  
The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Vernon Baker battled Nazis, then racism in his own country to win the Medal of Honor. Now, at 85, he's battling red tape.

Baker, the only living black Medal of Honor winner from World War II, needed emergency surgery in September to remove a baseball-sized malignant tumor from his brain.

Healthy for much of his life, the Idaho resident had overlooked the need to enroll for Veterans Affairs and Medicare benefits. When his medical bills arrived, Baker and his wife were surprised to learn the government did not intend to help pay them.

Patients must enroll with the Veterans Administration to receive benefits, and cannot be reimbursed for costs incurred before their enrollment, said Roxanne Sismore, spokeswoman for the VA.

And while some Medicare coverage kicks in automatically when a person reaches retirement age, coverage to pay doctors' bills also requires enrollment, said Peter Ashkenaz, a Medicare spokesman.

"It kind of makes me feel angry," Baker said in a telephone interview from his home in St. Maries, a town of 2,400 in the forested Idaho Panhandle, about 70 miles southeast of Spokane.

"I'm not able to take care of myself and it hurts me."

With the help of Idaho politicians, Baker has started receive-



World War II veteran Vernon Baker, 85 — with his wife, Heidi — is battling the U.S. government for medical care for a brain tumor. With the help of Idaho politicians, Baker, a Medal of Honor recipient, has started receiving some Veterans Administration and Medicare benefits.

ing some VA and Medicare benefits. And residents of St. Maries are organizing a fund-raiser to pay for thousands of dollars in medical bills he already owes.

"Someone held up as a hero all over the world, then he can't get medical coverage. No one should have to go through that," said neighbor Marilyn Fletcher, who is organizing the March 19 fund-raiser.

Baker earned the Medal of Honor citation for his courage and leadership in the battle for Castle Argonne on April 5, 1945. Baker and his men were behind enemy lines in the battle for Castle Argonne.

**Marilyn Fletcher**  
neighbor

Aghinolfi near Viareggio, according to Army records.

Their white commanding officer ran when the fighting started, ostensibly to seek reinforcements who never arrived, Baker wrote in his book, "Lasting Valor."

With German fire decimating the Americans, Baker took charge, moving from one machine gun nest to another, killing the enemy soldiers inside. Then he

covered the evacuation of his wounded comrades by taking an exposed position and drawing the enemy's fire, according to Army records.

The next night, Baker voluntarily led an advance on the castle through enemy mine fields and heavy fire.

In all, Baker and his platoon killed 26 Germans, destroyed six machine gun nests, two observer posts and four dugouts. Their heroism enabled the Allies to take the castle shortly thereafter. Baker was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, making him the most decorated black soldier in the Mediterranean Theater.

What he didn't know was that his Medal of Honor nomination had been blocked by a military establishment that did not want to give the nation's highest honor to blacks. In 1993, Army officials contracted Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C., to learn if any black soldiers had been improperly denied the Medal of Honor. The university recommended 10 soldiers. From that list, Pentagon officials picked seven.

Baker was the only recipient still living and received his medal from President Clinton in 1997. Baker stayed in the Army after the war and retired to St. Maries in 1968. Baker is trying not to let the financial woes get him down.

"I'm hanging in there," he said. "Today I feel pretty good."

## Remains of Texas GI returning home after missing for 60 years

BY BILL HANNA  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

FORT WORTH, Texas — A shoving brush.

A piece of a comb.

Part of a boot.

A worn set of dog tags.

These clues helped unearth a 60-year-old mystery about the whereabouts of Pfc. Preston "Pug" Harris.

In November 1944, the 23-year-old soldier from Greenville, Texas, was part of the 405th Infantry Regiment, 102nd Infantry Division that was fighting along the heavily fortified Siegfried Line near the German-Netherlands border.

The regiment's records state that Harris was killed Nov. 22, 1944, near Beek, Germany. He was eight days short of his 24th birthday.

Harris was officially listed as killed in action, but the location of his body was unknown. The family was told that he might have been buried in an unmarked grave at a military cemetery in the Netherlands.

His family knew little else.

"One of my other uncles wrote one of the men in Preston's unit who said they were in a field when an 88 [mm] round came in on him and the other guy, and that was it," said Harris' nephew, Knighton Hudson, 50, of Wylie in North Texas.

The first step toward solving the mystery occurred in June 2003 when a German company that was removing unexploded ordnance from the battlefield uncovered human remains in an unmarked grave.

The personal items found in the grave led officials to believe they had discovered a U.S. soldier's remains. The remains were transferred to the Hurler War Ceme-

tery and later to the U.S. Army Mortuary Affairs Facility in Landstuhl, Germany.

A team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii came to the Beek area in June, excavated the site and took possession of the remains, Hudson said.

After examining dental and medical records, the investigators

were able to identify Harris.

A military representative visited Harris' family in February and returned some of the personal items that had been recovered.

Bob Mason, general manager of Peters Funeral Home in Greenville, said his staff did a double take when they first learned the date of Harris' death.

"It was a very interesting thing when we started talking about a death that occurred on Nov. 22, 1944," Mason said.

Harris' military funeral is scheduled for March 12 in Greenville. But the service won't include a ceremonial rifle volley. "My grandmother didn't want that," Hudson said. "She felt like he already had enough shooting over there."

Harris was the youngest of 10 children. The only surviving family member is his 89-year-old sister, Maple Harris Hudson. Knighton Hudson said his mother is still coming to terms with the discovery of her brother's remains. "She was kind of in shock," Knighton Hudson said.

"She basically figured for the last 60 years that he was buried somewhere over there and then all of the sudden, she finds out he's been found."

"I think more than anything she was heartened that she was able to fulfill her mother's wishes to bring him home. I really don't think it's hit her yet."



Pfc. Preston Harris





## Delta cuts food, pillows

ATLANTA — Delta Air Lines Inc. is dropping its food-for-sale program, boosting prices on alcoholic beverages and eliminating pillows on many flights as the struggling carrier seeks to improve customer service even as its tries to become more efficient and cut costs.

The nation's third-largest airline announced Wednesday that starting April 3 it will replace its food-for-sale program, which was launched on selected flights in July 2003, with a wider assortment of free snacks in coach class on most domestic and some Latin American and Caribbean flights of more than 90 minutes.

## Killer of four executed

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. — A man who spent nearly a quarter century on death row for killing a couple and their two children was executed early Thursday.

Donald Ray Wallace, 47, died by injection at 12:23 a.m. at the Indiana State Prison. He was convicted in 1982 of slaying the Gilligan family — parents Patrick, Theresa, Lisa, 5, and Gregory, 4 — two years earlier during robbery at their Evansville home.

"I hope everyone can find peace with this," Wallace said in a final statement, according to Java Ahmed, a spokeswoman for the Indiana Department of Correction.

Wallace is the 12th person executed by the state of Indiana since the death penalty was reinstated in 1977. A second execution for this year is scheduled on April 21.

## Taser used in hospital

ORLANDO, Fla. — A police officer knelt on a drug suspect's chest to restrain him and twice used a Taser stun gun after he refused to provide a urine sample at a hospital, authorities said.

Antonio Wheeler, 18, was arrested Friday on a drug charge and taken to an emergency room after telling officers he had consumed cocaine, police said.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is investigating; the officer who used the officer, Peter Linnenkamp, has been relieved of duty pending the investigation's outcome.

Wheeler faces charges including possession of cocaine, resistant to self, escape and resisting without violence.

## Bush coat correction

WASHINGTON — Former President George H.W. Bush is expected after 16 years. The raincoat he had an agent give to a rain-drenched elderly woman in a Warsaw town square belonged to the agent, not the president.

The woman, one of thousands of onlookers, was caught unprepared for the downpour that marked the president's outdoor speech in the capital in 1989. Alongside her, in the front row, stood a U.S. Secret Service agent, with a raincoat, presumably the president's, folded over her arm.

Bush, standing coatless on the platform under a large umbrella, motioned the agent to give the president's raincoat to the crowd, which she happily accepted.

Reminded of the incident Tuesday by a reporter who was on the trip to Warsaw, Bush smiled and declared, "Yes, but it was the agent's raincoat."

From The Associated Press

# Rather signs off as CBS anchor

By DAVID BAUDER

The Associated Press



NEW YORK — To the end of his career as CBS News anchor, Dan Rather started down his critics.

Rather ended his final broadcast at the "CBS Evening News" on Wednesday with the message he was once ridiculed for offering: "courage."

The 73-year-old Texan has covered a breathtaking array of stories in more than 40 years at CBS, from the Kennedy assassination to the recent tsunami, and was the network's most visible face for the past 24 years. He replaced Walter Cronkite on the evening news on March 9, 1981.

Bob Schieffer is Rather's temporary replacement starting Thursday. CBS expects to name a permanent anchor team to succeed Rather in the coming months.

He was the second of the three men who dominated network news for more than two decades to step down in four months. NBC's Tom Brokaw exited in November, leaving ABC's Peter Jennings remaining at "World News Tonight."

His voice slightly hoarse, Rather was all business for the first 20 minutes of Wednes-

**Dan Rather anchors his last 'CBS Evening News' broadcast Wednesday from the CBS Broadcast Center in New York. Rather began anchoring on March 9, 1981.**

## Counterintelligence goes on the offensive

By KATHERINE SHRADER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government suspects more than 2,000 Chinese companies of operating in the United States to steal secrets and wonders whether more than 300,000 Chinese visitors are really here for study and research.

These concerns about who might be spying, U.S. information and technology, a policy department — from Defense to Energy to State — and officials say it underscores the need for pre-emptive action embodied in President Bush's plan for a new, national counterintelligence strategy.

As soon as this month, Bush is expected to direct U.S. intelligence agencies to go on the offensive to prevent the loss of secrets and technology, a policy consistent with the pre-emptive military strategy the administration developed in 2002.

National Counterintelligence Executive Michelle Van Cleave provided a broad outline of the unclassified strategy — the Seven Pillars of U.S. Counterintelligence — at a conference last weekend in Texas. A leading goal is to shift from reactive counterintelligence operations — finding spies and other sources of leaks after they've done significant damage — to offensive operations.

"No longer will we wait until we have been harmed to act," Van Cleave said.

Intelligence experts say the task will be difficult, given the espionage threats from China, Russia and other countries, as well as

terrorist groups and other interests determined to penetrate the United States.

Government officials say there are counterintelligence successes every day that are never made public. Some cases involve suspected spies who are given "full transactional immunity" in exchange for details of their activities — a rare government promise to avoid prosecution in exchange for full disclosure. The individual's career may end, but he or she will avoid jail time.

But some experts say the unfortunate reality is that only one truly major espionage case has ever been unraveled through classic detective work: the case of CIA turncoat Aldrich Ames. He helped devastate U.S. intelligence operations against the Soviets by selling them secret weapons plans between 1985 and 1994.

"It is very rare for counterintelligence, using analysis and conventional detective work, to unearth spies," said Keith Melton, a historical consultant to the U.S. intelligence community for more than 20 years. "Most spies are detected as a result of defectors or betrayal" by others.

Richard Haver, a former assistant defense secretary for intelligence, notes that the number of Americans with access to sensitive information is massive. At Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's request during early 2001, Haver tabulated that 11 million people historically had been granted security clearances, either in government or in the private sector jobs. In 2001, there were 900,000 active clearances.



Lisa Walker, a U.S. Forest Service maintenance worker, uses binoculars Wednesday to view steam as it rises from the crater of Mount St. Helens in Washington State.

## Mount St. Helens blast labeled 'small potatoes'

By RACHEL LA CORTE

The Associated Press

MOUNT ST. HELENS, Wash. — Josh White has rotten timing.

The 31-year-old from Astoria, Ore., missed it when Mount St. Helens reawakened in the fall. On Wednesday, the volcano enthusiast rushed to the mountain to get a look at the massive plume that stretched seven miles high the night before. It had been replaced by a wispy cloud.

"It's been twice in a row now that the mountain has blown before I could get up here," White said, camera in hand.

"I do think if it goes big, this is going to be it — but what a way to go." For a few minutes Tuesday, it seemed like that could be the big one. Scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey's volcano observatory in Vancouver, Wash., were getting ready to head home when the squiggly line on the computer that tracks seismic activity at Mount St. Helens suddenly turned a solid black.

"It just kept on going and going

and going," said research hydrologist Jon Major, describing the seismic line that registered Tuesday's earthquake measuring a magnitude of 2.0.

The mountain, located some 50 miles away, was belching steam and ash, signaling the most powerful blast since Mount St. Helens awoke last fall.

Compared to the eruption that killed 57 people on May 18, 1980, the plume "is really small potatoes," Major said.

The outpouring began with practically no warning at around 5:25 p.m., about an hour after the 2.0 magnitude quake registered on the east side of the 8,364-foot volcano, said Susan Stacie, coordinator of the Pacific Northwest Seismograph Network in Seattle.

Scientists will spend the next few days coming through the hours of data just before the plume to see if they missed any markers. They also intend to gather ash samples near the crater to study its rock chemistry and to determine if the completion of the magma has become richer in explosive gases.

# Jackson arrives over an hour late to court

The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — Michael Jackson arrived more than an hour late to his child molestation trial Thursday to face a judge who threatened to arrest him, but the judge resumed the case without taking any action against the singer in open court.

Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville had issued an arrest warrant when Jackson failed to arrive on time, but told defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. he would hold it for one hour. The judge also had threatened to revoke his \$3 million bail.

Mesereau, who told the judge

## Judge threatens arrest as singer stops at hospital

Jackson was being treated for a severe back problem, paced outside court and talked on his cell phone until the singer arrived, a few minutes past the deadline.

Jackson walked in gingerly, dressed in a jacket over pajamas and looked distressed.

The flurry of activity began a day that was already expected to be eventful, with Jackson's accuser returning to the stand to testify about the key allegations against the singer.

Attorneys met with the judge in

chambers before court resumed and Melville addressed the jurors, telling them not to draw any negative inferences from the developments.

"Mr. Jackson had a medical problem and it was necessary for me to order his appearance," Melville said.

The jurors had not been in the courtroom when Jackson failed to arrive at the 8:30 a.m. starting time.

Mesereau told the judge that Jackson was a hospital "with a serious back problem. He does plan to come in."

The judge, obviously angry, declared, "I'm issuing a warrant for his arrest. I'm forfeiting his bail. I will hold the order for one hour."

He made the statement between 8:35 a.m. and 8:37 a.m.

Jackson's spokeswoman, Raymond K. Bain, said outside court that the singer's back "gave out on him" after he woke up and he was rushed to an emergency room around 5:45 a.m.

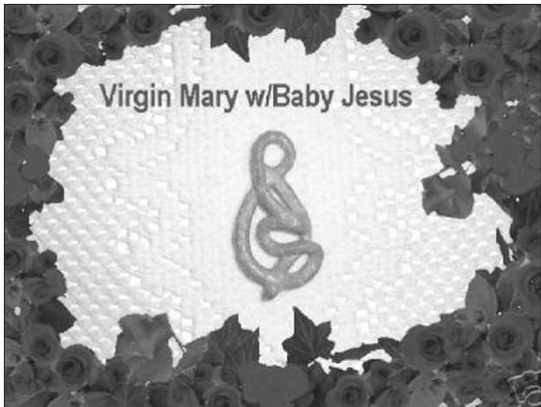
When Jackson was arraigned in January 2004, the judge admonished him for arriving late and re-

questing a bathroom break. Last month, during the first week of jury selection, Jackson went to a hospital with flu symptoms, delaying the proceedings for a week. But he has been on time or early since then.

On Wednesday, Jackson's young accuser faced the singer for the first time since leaving the singer's Neverland Ranch in March 2003, and described viewing sexually explicit images with the singer in his bedroom.

The 15-year-old was not asked about the molestation allegations before court ended Wednesday, but described viewing adult Internet sites with Jackson and others in 2000.

## Internet casino buys 'Virgin Mary' pretzel



THE GRAND ISLAND INDEPENDENT/AP

GoldenPalace.com, an Internet casino, has won in the bidding for a pretzel said to be shaped like the Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus. The sellers, Kent and Michelle Naylor of St. Paul, Neb., sold the pretzel Wednesday on eBay for \$10,600. The Naylor's 12-year-old daughter, Crysta, said she discovered the pretzel while snacking and watching television with her family on Feb. 27. In November, the casino paid \$28,000 for a partially eaten grilled cheese sandwich said to resemble the Virgin Mary.

## U.S. Consul issues guides for spring breakers

BY LYNN BREZOSKY

The Associated Press

MATAMOROS, Mexico — The U.S. Consulate on Wednesday warned spring breakers that they should be safe from the drug violence plaguing the border if they don't do "stuff you would not do at home," like urinate in public — and aren't on the streets at 2 a.m.

U.S. Consul John Naland said American officials are distributing 10,000 bright yellow fliers at hotels and condominiums around South Padre Island, Texas, upon which college students will descend for spring break and cross the border to enjoy the lower drinking age in Mexico. The fliers will also be sent to border-crossing tour buses.

Naland issued the fliers Wednesday to coincide with the State Department's more sweeping update on foreign travel.

In September 2004, the U.S. consulate issued an advisory for Reynosa, Mexico, across from McAllen, Texas, warning of U.S. tourists and business travelers being shaken down by police. In some cases, the police took tourists to remote ATM machines and ordered them to withdraw money.

That advisory was superseded in January by a more strongly worded State Department alert about drug shootings, kidnappings, and weak police surveillance along the border. U.S. officials said 27 U.S. citizens had been abducted along the Mexican

side of the border over six months. Two had been killed.

The alert sparked an outcry among city leaders on both sides of the border, who said it would cripple the thousands of vendors, restaurateurs, disco owners and others who rely on tourists.

With trade spilling back and forth between Matamoros and Brownsville, the mayors of those two cities and of South Padre Island said they would ask the government to tone down the warnings.

Naland said someone traveling in a group to a well-known place should be fine.

Naland said his latest message was the same for churches that send youths to Mexico on mission trips during Easter break and throughout the summer.

## Gangsta rappers end bitter weeklong feud

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Perhaps selling 1.1 million copies of his new album in four days has softened the heart of 50 Cent. Or maybe he has so many feuds going, he can afford to let one go.

On Wednesday, 50 Cent and The Game publicly squashed a bitter feud that had erupted into gunfire last week after 50 kicked Game out of his G-Unit clique for disloyalty.

The two platinum-selling gangsta rappers didn't exactly kiss and make up. When they emerged before a media throng at Harlem's famed Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, both looked as if they'd been shoved into apologies by a stern mother.

But they did shake hands, albeit at the end of the news conference, after speaking about contrition and the need for peace.

50 noted that Wednesday was the anniversary of the unsolved murder of Biggie Smalls in 1997, the culmination of a rap war between Biggie and Tupac Shakur that pitted East Coast against West.

"We're here today to show that people can rise above the most difficult circumstances and together

we can put negativity behind us," said 50, a native New Yorker. "A lot of people don't want to see it happen, but we're responding to the two most important groups, our family and our fans."

"I just want to apologize on behalf of myself and 50," said Game, who's from the Los Angeles suburb of Compton. "I'm almost ashamed to have participated in the things that happened in the last couple of weeks."

50 presented an oversized check for \$150,000 to the Boys Choir of Harlem. Game donated \$103,500. It was not clear why Game chose that amount or whether he had been reinstated in G-Unit; no questions were taken at the news conference. The Game also made a contribution to the Compton schools music program.

Is the truce sincere?

"Of course it was genuine," said hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons, who was at the event.

"They stood on stage together." At the very least, it was a remarkable concession for rappers who routinely brag about killing their enemies.

"It is the first time we've seen 50 publicly take a step back" from a battle, said Elliott Wilson, editor in chief of the hip-hop magazine XXL.



Rap artists 50 Cent, left, and The Game hold checks Wednesday during a news conference in Harlem, N.Y. The two rappers, who have been feuding for a week, announced an end to the disagreement and donations to the Boys Choir of Harlem.

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## Stop the English lessons

It is a sad state of affairs when some officers have nothing better to do than attempt to give English lessons to others via the soldiers' newspaper, Stars and Stripes ("Grade-school errors frequent," letter, March 3).

...and many like me, couldn't care less what a reflexive pronoun is, let alone what it does. Maybe staff officers could allow lower-level commanders to commit signatures to flawed documents, because the lower-level officers do not have time to pick every grammatical error on every document they sign.

They and we, the noncommissioned officers, have more important details to attend to, such as precombat checks, precombat inspections, battle drills, and keeping soldiers alive in a hostile and unforgiving environment.

I for one, have neither the time nor the inclination to pursue everything I write and, believe me, I write a lot of stuff. I type as I speak, as does most of the civilized world. I believe we should not care if we do it even if everyone would just do their jobs, and quit worrying about what the rest of the world is saying or writing.

Oh, and by the way, the Close Combat Read should be made available for all soldiers who have gone "outside the wire" in defense of a country in pursuit of democracy, not just a chosen few.

Please excuse any grammatical errors I may have committed.

Master Sgt. Jerry Chambers  
 Mosul, Iraq

## Americans remembered fondly

From mid-December 2004 to mid-February 2005 the city of Colmar, and surrounding areas, have been celebrating the 60th anniversary of their liberation in World War II. My husband, Lt. Col. Timothy R. Stoy, and I were privileged to attend numerous ceremonies, and at each one we were welcomed with respect and affection. The people in this part of France still remember our veterans and think fondly of the United States.

A truly touching moment occurred at a ceremony in Alsace with the French veterans' association Rhine-Danube held a ceremony at the American Monument on Hill 351 above the village to honor the Americans who had fought in Alsace with them. There is a French military cemetery there now, but in December 1944 the hill was the scene of ferocious fighting for both the 36th and 3rd Infantry divisions. My husband laid a wreath with the two American veterans present and delivered the keynote speech. It was a bitterly cold day with a biting wind, almost like the weather 60 years before.

At the reception after ceremony, as my husband was mingling with the veterans, one of them, Mr. Cade, came up to him and pressed a small medal with Washington and Lafayette depicted on the front into his hand. He explained that this medal had been given to his father in 1917 by the Americans upon their arrival in France during World War I, and that he wanted my husband to have it as a symbol of the con-

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editing and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance to the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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...tuning friendship between the people of France and the United States. It was such a touching moment.

I would like Stars readers to know that there are still many people in France who remember the United States fondly and still like America.

Army Capt. Monika C. Stoy (retired)

Haltensleben, Germany

## Diversity of opinion appreciated

I am writing in regards to the complaint about Garry Trudeau's "Doonesbury" comic strip letter, "Trudeau strip a piece of crap" (Feb. 28).

While I found the letter writer's comments nearly as entertaining as I find Trudeau's comic strip, it was still a bit disturbing to read such comments. The letter writer's anger toward Stars and Stripes for publishing the "left-wing-subtaneous-slendering piece-of-crap" comic is disdressed.

I applaud Stars for publishing comics, features, articles and opinion pieces that illustrate different points of view. The U.S. military is made up of people from all walks of political and cultural life.

For many people stationed overseas, Stars and Stripes is one of their few sources of news and information. I am sure the letter writer can appreciate diversity of opinion and freedom of press in a place like Iraq. The exchange of ideas and public discourse is critical to a democracy.

Those who are asked to defend it deserve a forum to read various points of view.

Staff Sgt. Gregory Bumgardner  
 Ramadi, Iraq

## 'Doonesbury' a 'counterweight'

This is in response to Col. John Crook's Feb. 28 letter ("Trudeau strip a piece of crap"), denouncing the "Doonesbury" comic strip as a left-wing "piece of crap." "Doonesbury" — whatever its faults — is a decades-old, highly regarded, Pulitzer Prize-winning work of political satire.

In Stars and Stripes it stands as a counterweight to the frequently mean-spirited and simplistic right-wing diatribe that characterizes the upstart "Mallard Fillmore" strip on

the adjoining page. Put the two of them together and, guess what, you have freedom of speech and diversity of opinion. Isn't that what the opinion pages of a newspaper are supposed to encourage?

Nicholas Stigliani  
 Okinawa

## 'Doonesbury' has its place

Respectfully, Col. John Crook ("Trudeau strip a piece of crap," letter, Feb. 28): As an American, I am glad our "newspaper" of the armed services includes "that left-wing-subtaneous-slendering piece-of-crap comic." What path would we be walking down if we removed everything that didn't agree with us?

I also am irritated when "Doonesbury" gleefully attacks the Republican Party and ignores Democratic Party folks, but that is why the comic is in the Letters to the Editor section instead of the comics. Really, though, should we pull "Foxtrooper" because it may teach our children to be scared? How about "Beetle Bailey"?

Master Sgt. Robert Tebben  
 Seoul, South Korea

## Strip amuses other readers

After reading the Feb. 28 letter "Trudeau strip a piece of crap," all I can say is: "Wow, I wanted to say that, but the presence of polite company made me refrain."

Apparently the "gentleman" who penned it doesn't quite get that "Doonesbury" and its on-page counterpart, "Mallard Fillmore," aren't there for his amusement. They're placed on the page for mine. Because I have a sense of humor, and only half as inflated an ego.

Also, notice if you will, my use of quotation marks around the word "gentleman" so that people can tell I'm being sarcastic, as the letter writer with "newspaper." Aren't I clever? No?

Staff Sgt. Louis Stutz  
 Camp Foster, Okinawa

## Seek inner strength at front

To U.S. servicemen serving in war zones: As the day passes by, your heart feels heavy, and you work hard to do the job right. Focus on the personal glory you will receive in the end.

When the chow comes teasing, don't give up! The day is just around the bend. Seek inner strength with every fiber of your being.

Most of all, when you feel in despair and lonely, and you feel like giving up, concentrate on your friends and family back home. We are all standing by your side, while whispering "Hang in there, boys. We're all here to come back home alive, where humble and safe arms lie."

So remember, do what you will to make the mission successful. Then, when your tour is done, sing with praise and come home to loving arms.

Ta'Sha Y. Brown  
 New York

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

## Doonesbury





## OPINION

# Merger mania: Size is the law of the jungle

BY ROSABETH MOSS KANTER

**“W**hen elephants dance, the grass gets trampled.”

That African proverb could be an American business saying, as Corporate giants are prowling around, hungry for acquisitions. Will they trample the folks at the grass roots? The biggest retailers are getting bigger. Federated (owner of iconic Macy's and Bloomingdale's) is buying May Department Stores (Lord & Taylor, Filene's and others). CVS expanded its already-large chain by buying Eckerd.

“As retailers swallow, manufacturers follow”—to coin a new business proverb. Giant distributors provide suppliers to merge.

Gillette executives cite the need for clout with gargantuan Wal-Mart as the reason for selling Gillette to Procter & Gamble.

Size is the law of the jungle. Banks continue to consolidate. Citizens Bank CEO Larry Fish predicts that six big banks will soon dominate the U.S. market. Media conglomerates on local broadcast and newspapers, telecommunications is shaking down at just a few giants, as SBC acquires AT&T, Verizon and Qwest vie to buy MCI.

The merger surge derives from more than a herd mentality or ambition to be king of the jungle. It reflects a long-term economic power

shift from production to distribution. Companies with large distribution networks dictate terms to their suppliers and control the flow of goods and services to consumers.

Long-term economic logic might favor this process, but in the short term, much grass gets crushed.

Let's start with consumers, whose purchases fill company coffers.

Consumers have mergers, Business Week asserted in December. That's not surprising. In service industries, a change in company ownership potentially inconveniences each individual user of a bank account, e-mail domain, cell phone line, long-distance plan or discount card, not to mention losing neighborhood facilities. While waiting for services to improve, consumers bear the costs of confusion—and upgrades they might not want.

Another grass-roots worry is rising prices if competition decimates. At a House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing last week, U.S. Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., asked six telecom CEOs involved in three potential mega-mergers to guarantee not to raise post-acquisition prices. No promises.

The work force isn't happy either. A Conference Board report on failing U.S. job satisfaction finds widespread discontent across ages and incomes. Half of all Americans surveyed say

they're satisfied with their jobs, down from nearly 60 percent in 1995; only 14 percent feel very satisfied. In a related study, 40 percent feel disconnected from their employers, 25 percent are just “showing up to collect a paycheck.” Mergers add uncertainty and anxiety that depress satisfaction.

Some laid-off employees pray for work, others decide to worship something bigger than business. After merger-related layoffs in a suburban high-tech corridor, church attendance increased.

Community leaders deplore acquisitions that remove a local headquarters. My research shows that companies contribute more money and leadership in their home office city. A division owned by a giant elsewhere doesn't have the same check-writing ability. Local nonprofits find corporate support shrinking—unless they, too, expand their networks across cities to match giants' national reach.

Personally, I don't hate all mergers. I just hate the way most are managed. Attention focuses on making the deal, not on what happens afterward.

Some mergers do bring instant improvements. CVS enhanced pharmacies at former Eckerd stores. Shinhan Financial Group in South Korea raised wages for workers in an acquired bank. Others create funds to maintain local community support for several years. This shows what's possible.



Opposition to mergers by local politicians is often misguided and futile. But if concerned citizens can't trip the elephant, they don't have to let grass grow under their feet either.

Consumers can make noise at the first announcements and vote with their wallets. Workers can keep skills fresh and an eye on starting their own business. Voters can insist on better programs to help with transitions and attract new jobs. Local nonprofits can de-

velop innovations valuable outside their community. Communities can encourage leadership from those more deeply planted than big companies: entrepreneurs (including women) and professional sectors such as education and health.

We know what kinds of beasts the elephants are. That makes it even more important to cultivate trample-proof grass.

Rosabeth Moss Kanter is a Harvard Business School professor and author of *Commitment*. She wrote this for The Miami Herald.

## Brusque Bolton now will set tone for U.S. at U.N.

BY SUSAN E. RICE

**P**resident Bush has shocked even his most cynical critics by nominating the combative neoconservative John Bolton to one of our most complex and sensitive diplomatic posts: U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Bolton served the past four years as undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, though then-Secretary of State Colin Powell initially resisted his appointment.

Condoleezza Rice, who passed over Bolton for deputy secretary despite strong support for him from President Dick Cheney, put on a brave face Monday in announcing his appointment. She stressed the administration's commitment to U.N. reform and praised Bolton as a friend of the United Nations who helped reject the noxious General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. But as Rice must know, keeping Bolton off her team at State may prove a Pyrrhic victory, if he takes his notoriously abrasive style to New York.

The job of U.N. ambassador is always important and delicate, but arguably never more so than now. The United Nations is facing unprecedented, justified criticism for its role in the oil-for-food scandal and its failure to prevent peacekeepers from sexually exploiting civilians in Congo. Several Republican members of Congress are gunning for Secretary-General Kofi Annan's head. In response, Annan is shaking up his management team and reminding the United States how badly it needs the United Nations.

Indeed, the United States is relying on the United Nations to carry out a massive tsunami-recovery effort and 17 peacekeeping missions, to support the democratization processes in Afghanistan and Iraq, and to pressure Iran to halt its nuclear program. At the

60th anniversary of its founding, the United Nations has rarely been more relevant or in greater need of reform.

Is John Bolton the right man? Having served as assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs from 1989 to 1993, Bolton may be deemed qualified, but his record on multilateral issues is alarming. He told *The Wall Street Journal* that “the happiest moment of his government service” was when the Bush administration renounced the treaty on the International Criminal Court. Bolton led the administration's withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, scuttled an important biological weapons protocol and weakened an international agreement to limit small-arms trafficking. On these issues, Bolton's positions at least reflected administration policy.

But Bolton holds many strong views that

diverge sharply from current U.S. policy. He described the United Nations as “a great, rusting bulk of a bureaucratic superstructure... dealing with issues from the ridiculous to the sublime.” More important, he maintains that the United States has no legal obligation to pay its U.N. dues.

Once a paid consultant to the Taiwanese government, Bolton favors Taiwan's independence and its full U.N. membership—a dangerous position in light of cross-strait tensions and our efforts to obtain Chinese president Hu Jintao's support. Will Bolton set aside his support for a Taiwanese U.N. seat while manning the U.S. seat on the Security Council?

Bolton has testified against U.N. involvement in Congo, an interstate conflict that has cost 3 million lives. He blasted the United Nations' concept of operations for its Ethio-

pia-Eritrea effort and rejected U.N. civil administration missions in Kosovo and East Timor. Will Bolton undergo such a conversion on the road to First Avenue that he can effectively support U.N. peace operations?

Finally, Bolton criticized any “right of humanitarian intervention” to justify military operations to prevent ethnic cleansing or potential genocide. “One must wonder how forcefully he will work to halt what the administration deems genocide in Darfur.”

Rice asserts that Bolton will be an outspoken, effective U.N. ambassador in the vein of Jeane Kirkpatrick and Daniel Patrick Moynihan. ... Those of us who believe the United States need an effective, reformed United Nations can only hope he succeeds.

Susan E. Rice is a senior fellow in foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution. She was assistant secretary of state from 1997 to 2001. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

### Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## IN THE WORLD

## Pakistan knew of scientist's nuclear deals

Official says Khan sold centrifuge system to Iran, insists Pakistan not involved

By PAUL HAVEN  
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — After years of denials, Pakistan admitted on Thursday that its top nuclear scientist sold centrifuges to Iran, though it stuck by its claim it knew nothing of his activities, and insisted he will not be turned over to another country for prosecution.

The admission by the nation's information minister was the first time since the world's atomic energy watchdog launched an investigation into Abdul Qadeer Khan's nuclear network that an Iranian or Pakistani official has acknowledged publicly that he sold Tehran

centrifuges, a crucial component needed to enrich the uranium that can be used in nuclear warheads.

"Dr. Abdul Qadeer gave some centrifuges to Iran," the minister, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "He helped Iran in his personal capacity, and the Pakistan government had nothing to do with it."

Ahmed originally made the comments at a seminar in Islamabad organized by a local newspaper group, in which he struck by Pakistan's insistence that Khan would never be handed over to a third country for prosecution. The disgraced scientist is still

## Iran promises 'nightmare' if attacked

By SAMIR KRILIC  
The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Iran's foreign minister has told a Bosnian newspaper that if Washington decides to attack Iran it will be a nightmare for the United States.

"If America decides to attack Iran, they will make a big mistake. It will be a nightmare for them," Kamal Kharrazi was quoted as saying in an interview published Thursday in the Nezavisne Novine newspaper.

Kharrazi is part of an Iranian delegation led by President Mohammad Khatami which was to conclude a three-day visit to Bosnia on Thursday.

U.S. officials have issued increasingly sharp warnings about what they say are Iran's efforts to build nuclear weapons. Tehran has said its nuclear program is intended purely for civilian purposes.

President Bush has labeled Iran "the world's primary state sponsor of terror."

considered a hero in Pakistan for nearly single-handedly securing Pakistan an atomic bomb to counter rival India.

"I support the idea that the government should tell the people about these sensitive matters," Ahmed said in a speech at the seminar, an audio tape of which was also obtained by AP. "I am not a spokesman for

Last month, he called suggestions that the United States is preparing to attack Iran "simply ridiculous," but quickly added that "all options are on the table."

Disputes between Iran and the United States "have a long history," Kharrazi was quoted as telling the Banja Luka-based daily.

"During our conflict with Iraq, the U.S. took the side of our enemies. There are also many other problems," Kharrazi was quoted as saying.

He said talk of American military intervention in Iran was "political pressure."

"The United States does not want to understand that Iran is an important player in global relations. Iran is democratic and has a positive role in promoting peace and security in the world," Kharrazi was quoted as saying.

At the end of the interview Kharrazi said that unlike Iraq, Iran is "a united nation and a strong government."

"If they [the United States] attack us, I think, it will have all the same as for them," Kharrazi was quoted as saying.

a cowardly nation. Yes, we supplied Iran the centrifuge system. Yes, Dr. Qadeer gave Iran this technology. But we are not going to hand over Dr. Qadeer to anyone. We will not."

Ahmed later told AP that Islamabad is fully cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the world's nuclear

watchdog, which is investigating whether Khan sold technology to Iran, Libya, North Korea and other countries.

There was no immediate reaction from Washington to Ahmed's comments. President Bush has urged world leaders to stand united in opposing Khan from obtaining nuclear technology.

Pakistan is a key ally in the war on terror. American officials acknowledge privately, however, that Washington is frustrated by Islamabad's refusal to allow Khan to be directly questioned by American agents.

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf pardoned the disgraced scientist last year and allowed him to keep the riches he allegedly earned from the trade. However, Khan remains restricted to his home in an upscale neighborhood of the Pakistani capital.

The government has steadfastly denied any official involvement in the proliferation, despite reports Khan flew to North Korea on a government plane. Musharraf — a general who seized power in a 1999 coup — held senior positions in the Pakistani armed forces for much of the time that Khan's alleged nuclear dealings took place.

As the main supplier of centrifuges, parts and related technology, the Khan network has figured prominently in those investigations. Diplomats at the agency say that in confidential discussions with IAEA experts, both Pakistan and Iran itself have acknowledged that Khan sold Tehran centrifuges, although neither country had previously publicly said so.

## Spanish cope with bombing on anniversary

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — One year ago, at a Madrid community train, 10 backpack bombs allegedly planted by Muslim extremists blew up, killing 191 people and wounding more than 1,500.

On Thursday, Spain's Parliament observed five minutes of silence — broken only by the mournful strains of a cello playing Bach's Sarabande Suite No. 2 — in memory of victims of the bombings as Spain prepared to mark the massacre's first anniversary.

Lawmakers at the Congress of Deputies stood grim-faced by their seats in a prelude to a series of memorial acts scheduled for Friday.

"It was a direct blow at our life in peace and freedom," the legislature said in a statement.

Fewer than half the injured have come to terms with the tragedy and moved on with their lives, said Marisa Perles, a psychologist who works closely with the victims. The rest just relive their brush with death.

"The first year the pain is extremely intense," Perles said.



Residents carry coffins of relatives during a mass burial Thursday in San Jose, Philippines. Sobbing parents prepared for a mass burial Thursday of 27 elementary schoolchildren who died after eating a snack of cassava, a root that's poisonous if not prepared correctly.

## Filipinos mourn poisoned children

By TERESA CERJOJANO  
The Associated Press

MABINI, Philippines — Weeping relatives watched as the coffins of some of the 27 schoolchildren who died after eating improperly prepared cassava root were lined up for burial at a Roman Catholic chapel in the town of Mabini.

Overcome with grief, Lorenza Asas, mother of 7-year-old Sherwin Asas, stomped her feet on the floor. "I can't accept that my son is dead," she said, as her relatives tried to calm her.

The victims, most ages 7-13, bought the deep-fried caramelized cassava from vendors during

snack time at the San Jose school in Mabini town on the central Philippine island of Bohol.

Another 103 people were hospitalized with severe stomach pains and diarrhea.

Starchy cassava roots, while rich in protein, minerals and vitamins, are poisonous without proper preparation. The human digestive system can convert part of them into cyanide if they are eaten raw.

At a foothill cemetery, parents, residents and officials watched 12 coffins placed into side-by-side concrete niches.

"Maybe everyone here is still in shock," Mayor Stephan Rances said with tears in his eyes as work-

ers sealed the coffins shut before sealing the niches with cement. Relatives wept nearby.

Anicita Luyong, 33, grieved over the coffin of her 7-year-old son, Wilfredo Luyong Jr., in her house near the school.

She said the boy, who had wanted to be a soldier, came home crying with severe abdominal pain. He was taken to a hospital but did not survive.

One of the two vendors was also ill and still hospitalized Thursday, while the other was in police custody to protect her from outraged parents, said the town mayor's aide, Philip Faderman.

Authorities have not ruled out criminal charges against the vendors.

## Americans on high alert

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — U.S. citizens living in a residential compound in western Saudi Arabia have been put on high alert after the American Embassy issued an increased threat level warning, officials said Thursday.

The warning singled out the Sierrita Village, on the outskirts of Jiddah, where tensions remain high following a Dec. 6 attack on the U.S. consulate by Islamic militants.

A Sierra Village employee said the warning was issued Tuesday following an altercation a day earlier between security guards and youths in a car parked nearby.

## Protests in France

PARIS — Planes, trains and metros were canceled, and postal workers and teachers staged home in a nationwide day of defiance Thursday against government economic policies — notably plans to let the French work longer hours.

The strikes coincided with a visit by Olympic inspectors assessing the French capital's bid to host the 2012 Summer Games.

Tens of thousands of protesters marched through Paris, answering the call of unions for a massive turnout to defend France's 35-hour workweek and to push for more jobs and salary talks.

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## Sin tax proposed

**MO** JEFFERSON CITY

In the eyes of one Missouri legislator, the Show-Me State needs to tone down its image — as far as the adult entertainment industry is concerned.

"Travelers in our state are being sent a signal that Missouri is a porn-friendly state," said State Sen. Matt Bartle. To combat that, Bartle has sponsored a measure for a sin tax.

The proposal cleared the state Senate with little debate. The legislation needs another vote to move to the House.

Under the bill, tipping strippers would be illegal, as would any physical contact between exotic dancers and their customers. Total nudity would be banned, and no one under 21 could work in such businesses.

The legislation also would impose a \$5 per customer charge for sexually oriented businesses, from strip clubs to adult bookstores, and a 20 percent tax on revenues. The provisions are similar to what casinos in the state already must pay.

Bartle, a Republican, said the restrictions and taxes are necessary to combat problems such as prostitution, juvenile delinquency and declining property values.

## High school to be closed

**DC** WASHINGTON — Cardozo High School will be closed again because of the third mercury spill since Feb. 23. Cardozo students will be bused to the University of the District of Columbia to attend classes. The most recent mercury spill turned up last weekend. Officials said cleaning up the latest spill will take between three and five days.

## Employees to get bonuses

**ME** FREEPORT — About 4,700 L.L. Bean employees will receive bonuses totaling 12.5 percent of their annual base salaries after the company announced record sales of \$1.4 billion for fiscal 2004. An additional 5,600 seasonal workers will get \$150 bonuses.

The privately held Bean said sales increased 9 percent from 2003.

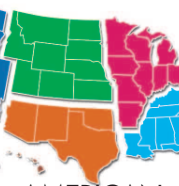
## Shark kills tank mate

**CA** MONTEREY — The Monterey Aquarium's popular great white shark is now a killer, having taken down one of its Outer Bay tank-mates two weeks ago and inflicting a 5-inch gash in the tail of another soupfin shark this week.

But aquarium officials believe the 88-pound, well-fed white shark wasn't hunting its neighbors — only reflexively clomping when it was startled by an accidental collision with the slower-swimming sharks.

There are no plans to move the female great white, although officials may relocate two remaining soupfin sharks to avoid potential clashes in the million-gallon tank. "The white shark and the soupfins are tending to sort of run into one another," said Randy Kochevar, science communication manager for the aquarium. "You have two animals trying to occupy the same space with some unfortunate consequences."

The newest attack and the death



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

of a similar shark Feb. 23 — which was found with a two-foot chunk of its tail missing — occurred before the aquarium opened for visitors, whose numbers have jumped 30 percent since the great white shark arrived in September after it was accidentally netted by fishermen in Southern California.

## Toddler survives alone

**TX** HOUSTON — A 2-year-old boy survived for up to two days on pancake syrup and onions after his caretaker died in their home, police said.

The boy was found after a relative of Gladie Mae Johnson, 64, became concerned because she hadn't heard from her.

When the relative knocked on the door of Johnson's home, she heard knocking back from inside. She entered through an unlocked back door and found the boy and Johnson's body.

Johnson was last seen alive on Friday, Houston Police Department Sgt. Paul Motard said. She apparently died of natural causes.

Investigators found an open and nearly empty container of pancake syrup on the floor. Some onions also were found lying near Johnson's body.

Johnson was a friend of the boy's family and had been caring for him since last year, when his mother went to prison, Child Protective Services spokeswoman Estella Olguin said.

## Manatees found dead

**FL** NAPLES — At least 16 West Indian manatees have died in southwest Florida, apparently from a red tide outbreak that's

drifted offshore for several weeks.

So far, this episode hasn't escalated to the level of major red tide mortality events in recent years. During a particularly bad outbreak in 1996, more than 150 manatees died from the toxic bloom.

The year 2003 saw nearly 100 mortalities that were blamed on red tide. State biologist Andy Garrett, however, said this latest event looks familiar.

"The pace we're on right now would be on pace with some of the bigger events," Garrett said. "Having several animals picked up over the course of a few days is similar to the bigger events."

Red tide is a naturally occurring toxin that's fed by nutrients.

Large blooms occur regularly off the southwest Florida coast and can cause widespread deaths of marine creatures and respiratory problems in humans.

Garrett said the number of calls from boaters reporting dead manatees has ebbed since the weekend. Rainy and chilly weather probably kept many boaters off the water lately, Garrett said.

Red tide typically forms offshore and gets tossed around the Gulf of Mexico by currents and steering winds. Winter winds typically prevail from the east. Onshore breezes and winter fronts, however, can send the toxic out-breaks inshore.

## Gorilla dies at Erie

**PA** ERIE — A gorilla believed to be the longest living of its kind in captivity has died of old age. He was 49.

Rudy died in his sleep at the Erie Zoo, said zoo spokesman Scott Mitchell.

Captive gorillas can begin to have health problems in their late 20s to early 30s, Mitchell said. Rudy's appetite had been declining recently, he said.

Rudy was captured in Africa as a baby. He arrived at the Erie Zoo in 1987 after living at zoos in St. Louis, Los Angeles and Cleveland.

Rudy was believed by the International Species Information System, which keeps records on captive animals, to be the oldest captive lowland gorilla in the world.

## Deputy suspended

**MN** BEMIDJI — An off-duty sheriff's deputy who used a cell phone to make audio/visual recordings of three men having sex with an 18-year-old woman at a party will be suspended for two weeks without pay and reassigned, an official said.

An investigation of the Sept. 19 incident found that Beltrami County deputy Jeffrey Andersen engaged in "conduct unbecoming an officer," Sheriff Keith Winger said.

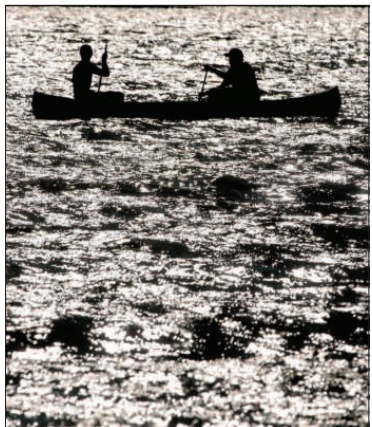
Three men were charged with felony criminal sexual conduct after the woman told police that they gang-raped her. She said one of them gave her a drink that rendered her semiconscious.

Andersen, 25, was suspended with pay after he admitted using a cell phone to record the incident.

A special prosecutor dismissed the rape charges in December, saying that there wasn't evidence of a date-rape drug. The same prosecutor declined to bring charges against Andersen, saying his conduct couldn't be proven criminal.



**White-out results in pileup** A white-out created by lake-effect snow bands caused a multi-vehicle pileup on U.S. 131 near Grand Rapids, Mich. A sudden snow squall caused a series of chain-reaction accidents involving 85 to 90 vehicles on a western Michigan highway that killed one motorist and injured at least 34 others, police said.



## Taking a break

Patrick Allred, left, and Jim Bell paddle their canoe across Kirby Lake in Abilene, Texas. The two high school juniors were enjoying the sunshine during their spring break.



## Disappearing act

Vehicles cross the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco in fog.





## All the world's a snowflake

Mike Whitney, 19, of Auburn, Maine, walks past a snowflake design on the front of a downtown business in Lewiston, Maine.



## A blanket of gold

Sightseers walk through a field of wildflowers in Death Valley National Park in Death Valley, Calif. Heavy winter rains have led to an explosion of wildflowers throughout the usually barren landscape.



## Willing to work

Jim White, left, and Andrew Boney carry snow shovels while walking along Route 229 in Bristol, Conn. They were looking for a way to make a few bucks off the snow track.



## What a mess!

Workers look over the scene of a derailment in Industry, Calif. The freight train derailed spilling a combustible liquid and prompting the evacuation of 11 businesses from a nearby strip mall, authorities said. No injuries were reported.

## Tread gives up crooks

**AR** FORT SMITH — Police in Fort Smith got to the bottom of a burglary at city offices by peering into the criminal sole.

Apparently, footprints left by the burglars came from shoes popular with skateboarders. Officers discovered that only one store in Fort Smith sold the shoes, and the shoe with the unique tread was sold to only a handful of customers.

That led police to Christopher Calvin and Eric Skelton, both 23.

The men were arrested last week on suspicion of commercial burglary and theft of property. The duo worked together at a mall restaurant near the store that sold the shoes.

City officials said about \$3,000 worth of computers and other equipment was taken.

According to authorities, the burglars apparently climbed atop a vacant building, worked their way to the ledge along the third floor of another building that housed city offices and entered through an unlocked window.

## First female president

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — Marvalene Hughes has been chosen as Dillard University's first woman president. She will officially begin July 1 as the ninth president of Dillard, a private, predominantly black school associated with the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. Hughes has been president at California State University Stanislaus campus since 1994.

## License-revoking reward

**MN** ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Supreme Court is considering the constitutionality of a law allowing authorities to revoke the driver's license of people suspected of driving drunk.

The implied consent law allows license revocation before a judge hears the case. More than 30,000 people a year lose their licenses in Minnesota because of suspected drunk driving.

## Boater rescued safely

**TX** AUSTIN — A boater got the ride of his life when he fell overboard and was swept through a floodgate of a dam.

Authorities said the man and a female companion were boating on Lake Austin when the boat's motor quit and the current carried the boat up against the Tom Miller Dam.

A security guard atop the dam threw a rope to the woman and guided her to a rescue boat, but Dirk Hoekstra fell into the water.

"A second later is when my feet got sucked in by the water gate and that's when I went through," Hoekstra told CNN.

He said he managed to take a good breath before he went under. "It was twisting me around like a rag doll and threw my arms all over the place and it just keeps flipping me from whirlpool to whirlpool," Hoekstra said.

He said he surfaced a quarter- to a half-mile downstream from the dam, made his way to a house on shore and called 911.

## Father shoots daughter

**VA** VIRGINIA BEACH — A father was charged with acci-

dently shooting his 2-year-old daughter while playing with a gun, police said.

Jered Dean Grisham, 23, was arrested and charged with felony child endangerment and reckless handling of a firearm, said Rene Ball, a police spokeswoman.

Police believe Grisham was spinning the gun on his finger when it went off, grazing his daughter's legs. She was treated at a hospital and released.

Grisham is being held in jail without bond.

## School looks into speech

**CO** PUEBLO — Officials at Colorado State University-Pueblo are investigating a student's complaint that a professor called Mexicans "lazy and bitter" during a classroom tirade against illegal immigrants.

Two students claimed tenured anthropology professor Dan Forsyth made the comment in a speech March 3. The Pueblo Chief-Tribune reported.

According to the students, Forsyth allegedly said illegal immigrants and Mexicans have filled up U.S. prisons and "raped the system," the paper reported.

Forsyth denied the allegations, saying he only reminded students after class about a campus appearance by Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., an outspoken advocate for tighter immigration controls.

## City eyes cable car fares

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — A ride on a historic cable car is considered a must-do for tourists visiting the City by the Bay, like a tour of Alcatraz prison or a walk across the Golden Gate Bridge.

But the ride could soon cost them a couple extra bucks.

The board that oversees city transportation voted last week to raise the price of a cable car ride from \$3 to \$5, reasoning that tourists use cable cars far more than residents. The fare for buses, which many residents ride, would go up only a quarter.

The proposal must still be approved by Mayor Gavin Newsom, who wants to find another way to raise funds, and the Board of Supervisors.

The cable cars "shouldn't be a way for us to make money, but part of the allure and charm of the city," Newsom said.

## No Sunday car sales

**ME** AUGUSTA — A bill that would allow Maine car dealers to sell vehicles on Sundays is dead for this session.

The Legislature's Business, Research and Economic Development Committee sent word to the House that it voted unanimously to kill the bill.

Rep. Nancy Smith, D-Monmouth, a committee co-chair, said dealers didn't support the idea and consumers expressed a desire to have one day a week to car shop without having salesmen around.

It is now illegal for dealers to sell cars, trucks or motorcycles on Sunday.

The only person to testify in favor of the bill was its sponsor, Rep. Kenneth Lindell, R-Frankfort, who said he wanted to reduce state regulation over business and give families an option to car shop on Sunday.

Stories and photos from wire services

## FACES

# For Womack, pop worth leaving behind

## After failed crossover venture, C&W traditionalist happily returns to roots

BY MARIO TARRADELL

The Dallas Morning News

A few years ago, country traditionalist Lee Ann Womack drolled up and struck a come-hither pose for Matthew Rolston, a fashion photographer known for his shots of stars such as Cyndi Lauper and Jennifer Lopez. The glamorous picture became the cover of Womack's 2002 album, "Something Worth Leaving Behind." That cover telegraphed a clear change: Lee Ann Womack was going pop.

It didn't go well. Womack's next big photo session produced a CD cover that could pass for one of Tammy Wynette's early '70s album jackets. A sheer veil covers her soft blond locks, sweet smile and summery halter-top, lending a golden hue. And again, the message couldn't be more plain: 2005's "There's More Where That Came From" would be a traditional country album — twin fiddles, moaning pedal steel guitars and mandolins, stories of cheating, hard lessons and heartbreak.

"When I started making this record, I said I'm gonna have fun, and that's it. I'm not going to worry about does this sound right coming from a woman, or is this too country, or is this intro too long?" says Womack. She's nursing a bowl of oatmeal with butter and brown sugar during a breakfast interview. The Jacksonville, Texas, native was in Dallas for the release of "There's More Where That Came From."

"I wanted this record to sound like where I came from." Womack is the genre's latest artist to start out traditional, flirt with pop, then highlight it back to country. Her brief detour puts her in good company with icons such as Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn as well as big-selling stars Garth Brooks and LeAnn Rimes.

There's nothing wrong with a little experimentation, of course as long as you don't lose your artistic identity. Nelson pulled it off with 1982's "Always On My



Lee Ann Womack, who made a name for herself in the country world with her hit "I Hope You Dance," says she "didn't have much fun" during her foray into pop music.

Mind" and especially 1978's collection of pop standards, "Star-dust." But Parton had trouble staying focused.

While her 1977 pop foray, "Here You Come Again," succeeded by mixing plenty of Dolly's personality with mainstream hooks and melodies, 1988's "Rain-bow" bombed because it glossed over her distinctive style.

Sometimes confusing the die-hard fans leads to sure failure. Brooks became another character, Chris Gaines, for his doomed pop effort, 1999's "In the Life of Chris Gaines." He left millions of admirers scratching their heads, wondering what he was doing. For Rimes, 2002's "Twisted Angel" seemed more a product of her teenage rebellion than

a legitimate change of musical personality with record myself, radio, the listeners, everybody who loved 'Never Again, Again' and everybody who loved 'I Hope You Dance.' And it just didn't work. It backfired."

Womack's excursion into pop was sparked by the mammoth success of 2000's "I Hope You Dance," a 3-million-selling CD that produced the smash title cut, a hit on the country, pop and adult contemporary charts. The album was a thoughtfully conceived blend of her traditional country base and smoother pop elements.

She felt the stifling pressure of following up such a huge record, so she made herself miserable in the studio while recording "Something Worth Leaving Behind." She had pop producer Matt Serletic (Matchbox Twenty) soup up an alternate version of "Something Worth Leaving Behind," hoping it would ensure the same mass-appeal of "I Hope You Dance."

The whole endeavor sank. "Something Worth Leaving Behind" peaked at No. 20 on Billboard's country singles chart and never crossed over to pop or adult contemporary. The album didn't fare much better; it sold barely 300,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

"I didn't have that much fun making 'Something Worth Leaving Behind,'" she says before taking a sip of coffee. Womack, dressed in blue jeans and a flowery halter-top with a beige shawl, is refreshingly honest.

"Now that I look back on it, because of the success that I had prior, I was so worried that I was gonna not measure up to that, that I over-thought everything on

that record. I tried ... to please everybody with that record myself, radio, the listeners, everybody who loved 'Never Again, Again' and everybody who loved 'I Hope You Dance.' And it just didn't work. It backfired."

For a while, she wasn't sure she wanted to make another album. It was her label, MCA Nashville, that coaxed her back into the studio.

This time, she was determined to please only one person — herself. And the return to country worked —

"There's 'More Where That Came From' sold a healthy 83,000 copies its first week in stores. The disc's first single, a classic cheating ballad titled "I May Hate Myself in the Morning," sits in the Top 15.

Traditional country music in its purest form is a rarity these days: songs characterized by organic musicianship heavy on fiddles and steel guitars; emotional songs painting everyday subjects as universal truths.

"That's my favorite kind," says Womack. "I mean, it fires me up. Traditional country is the most beautiful thing in the world. And you know I don't sing country music because I'm not capable of singing other kinds of music. I sing it because I just love it."

People ask her why she likes "sad stuff" so much, she says.

"I have no explanation for why I can put on 'A Good Year for the Roses,' crank it up and just ... it does something to me. It makes me happy. I don't understand what's going on there, but it does."

**"When I started making this record, I said I'm gonna have fun, and that's it. ... I wanted this record to sound like where I came from."**

Lee Ann Womack

Describing her new CD,

"There's More Where

This Came From"

### An interstellar success

Career-achievement prizes? Maybe for your ordinary, down-to-earth directors, not for the interstellar filmmakers over-

lords. "Star Wars" creator George Lucas is receiving a "galactic-achievement award" next week at ShoWest, an annual convention of theater owners in Las Vegas.

The honor being presented March 17 comes two months before the debut of the final installment in Lucas' sci-fi saga, "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith," chronicling the transformation of young hero Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) into the



Lucas

dark lord Darth Vader.

"This unique award celebrates the enduring popularity of the 'Star Wars' movies and the enormous impact and influence they have had on audiences and popular culture," Mitch Neuhouser, co-manager of ShoWest, said Tuesday.

"Revenge of the Sith" opens in U.S. theaters on May 19.

### Actress disputes RNC charges

Actress Rosario Dawson says she will fight disorderly conduct and obstruction charges stemming from her arrest during the Republican National Convention last year.

Dawson, 25, was arrested filming the movie "This Revolution," along with director Stephen Marshall. Authorities said she was wearing two handkerchiefs on her face with only her eyes showing.

A criminal complaint says she refused when ordered by police to move from the 35th Street and Eighth Avenue location, near the site of the GOP convention.

When Marshall tried to show the city film permit to police, he and Dawson were arrested. Dawson refutes the police department's claim that she refused to move.

A Manhattan criminal court judge Tuesday denied Dawson's request to dismiss the charges and said her trial would begin next week. The New York Post reported.

### Wonder to star at Tiger Jam

Stevie Wonder will have Sin City "Dancing to the Rhythm" when the Grammy winner headlines the upcoming Tiger Jam VIII.

The annual benefit concert sponsored by Tiger Woods is scheduled for May 21 at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino in Las Vegas.

"Stevie Wonder is a music legend, and I'm thrilled he's headlining Tiger Jam VIII," Woods said in a statement Tuesday.

"He's very committed to social causes, which makes him a perfect fit to help raise awareness for the Tiger Woods Learning Center."

Counting Crows also will perform at the concert, which raises more than \$1 million annually for the Tiger Woods Foundation.

SBC Communications also is a sponsor.

Proceeds from previous concerts have supported a variety of organizations, including the Boys & Girls Club of Las Vegas and the VHL Save the Music Foundation.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Wonder

Wonder









# Horoscope

The headstrong Aries lunar energy causes some to be overly aggressive, thinking that the louder they talk or the more they repeat themselves, the better their chances of being heard. The opposite is true. With so much Pisces energy in the heavens, subtlety communicates much more clearly. Dare to be soft, humble and even coy.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 11).** You're on a mission — nearly obsessed, really! This intense degree of focus is what it takes for mastery and attainment of something that goes to the elite few! In May, circulate, and make valuable contacts. Finances improve, and because of this, you're able to fund life-improving summer projects. Love is an adventure with Leo and Libra.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** That unpleasant person or awkward issue must now be dealt with directly. Avoidance is pointless. Like a bad French movie, your life will keep intersecting with the thing until you a madcap culmination is reached.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** When communication is missed and events don't unfold clearly, extend the benefits of the doubt. You're so on the go that even people who should know how to find you have a hard time tracking you down.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The saying goes that "rejection is God's protection." In spite of recent reversals, the demand for what only you can deliver has not slackened in the slightest. You're still charismatic, and tonight's events prove it.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You're a giving soul. But the neediness in the world is just too strong a current and succumbing to it will drag you in over your head. Though you won't be able to give people all they want from you, give what you can.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your inventiveness, intuition and ingenuity sparkle up everything you touch. You've got answers that even the

powers of Google couldn't deliver! Too bad friends don't follow your advice, but hey, at least you follow your own.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Sentimentality dictates some of your activities. It's not like you, and maybe that's the appeal. You feel soft and pliable. It's time to admit it: Your passing fancy is growing into an abiding attachment.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You'll witness the domino effect. Perhaps the snarled-up plans of a day would discourage a less creative soul, but you'll make something magical out of the whole mess. You're nothing if not resilient.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Your psychic antennae are activated. Someone is either talking about what you can do for him or her or fantasizing about same. What a coincidence — you were just thinking about what that person might do for you.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** What's life without glamour, art and adventure? Unless you do some research or make some plans for the weekend, you're about to find out! Get on that! A Gemini can contribute.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Even if you're destined for a day of labor, find ways to cut loose and have a little fun. Your association with a Leo or Aquarius helps. Playful electricity is in the air. Join the merry-go-round of people out and about.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** What would happen if you just let go of plugging commitment issues? Maybe you're just time with the level of commitment you have! Love is more fun if you play it by ear now anyway.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Abandon antiquated ideas and outdated methods for the modern, streamlined and efficient. The more you automate your life, the more time you have to be frivolous and spontaneous. Reinroduce yourself to the concept of fun.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



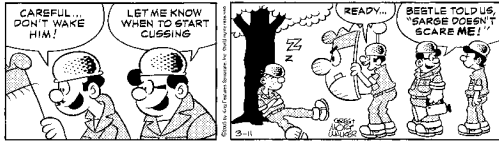
## Cathy



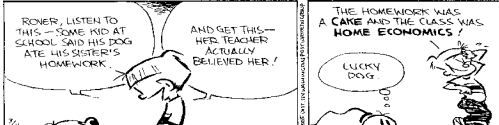
## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



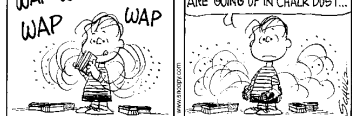
## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



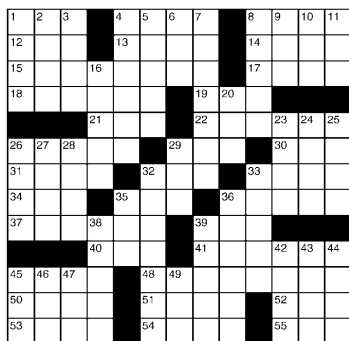
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Food container  
4 Dressed  
8 Beanbag-chair sound  
12 "All the Things You —"  
13 It's over your head  
14 Slush  
15 Multiply by six  
17 Groucho-like look  
18 Spuds  
19 Big flap  
21 Expert  
22 Vicente Fox's land  
26 Opposite of "go"  
29 Charlotte's creation  
30 Train component  
31 Easy gait  
32 Standard  
33 Titanic problem  
34 Smelttery input  
35 Predicament  
36 Tea holder  
37 Cartoon kid with a laboratory  
39 Nursery item  
40 Italian article  
41 In the neighborhood  
45 Fairy-tale baddie  
48 Having a particular surface  
50 "What's — for me?"  
51 Pennsylvania port  
52 Public radio's Glass

## Down

- 53 Comprehends  
54 Back talk  
55 Sauce source  
1 Throw  
2 Vicinity  
3 Barbershop call  
4 House of worship  
5 Omission  
6 Have a bug  
7 Visionary  
8 Moss pink, e.g.  
9 Gaffer's concern  
10 Metrical tribute  
11 According to  
16 Rib  
20 Society newbie  
23 Carol Higgins  
24 Check for proof of age  
25 Wanton revelry  
26 Lummock  
27 Traditional tales  
28 Pinnacle  
29 Depilation method  
32 Penance crew  
33 Ronstadt's was  
35 Swamp  
36 Conqueror of 22-Across  
38 Massachusetts school  
39 Urban fleet  
42 "Exodus" author  
43 Pianist Peter  
44 Moment of truth, maybe  
45 Freak (out)  
46 Inseparable  
47 Brightened up  
49 Tide competitor

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-11

## CRYPTOQUIP

BIDV GPR ODSEOD UP  
YRZSICHD GPRZ PBV IPZHD,  
GPR BEMM DADVRCMMG

ICAD UP YPVG RY.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAVE YOU HEARD THAT THE VANDALS DESTROYED ROAD SIGNS, PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals P







# RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS



Rusty Wallace, right, who plans to retire from full-time competition after this season, is tired of the week-to-week grind of the 10-month Nextel Cup season. Wallace plans to focus on his family as well as his Busch Series team and car dealership when he's done racing full-time.

## 'Rusty's Last Call'

### Wallace chasing Cup one more time before semi-retirement

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

**R**usty Wallace never said he wouldn't race again. He even wonders at times if he's making the right decision to retire from full-time NASCAR competition after the 2005 season.

When he can't sleep, Wallace stares at the ceiling in the middle of the night thinking about things he did in the past, or what he'll do when he's not racing 10 months a year.

"I'm all over," he said of his thoughts. "Honestly, I'm not content at all."

But the 48-year-old Wallace is sure about one thing: He's tired of the week-to-week grind.

"I'm retiring because I'm just burnt out in the schedule," he said. "If I get through the end of 2005, and I feel like, 'Man, I'm running 3,000 mph and now they tell me I've got to stop,' I'm probably going to say let's run about 10 [races the next year]. But for sure, my days of running the full schedule are over."

After one more championship chase, that is.

Wallace began this season with

**Rusty Wallace's career highlights**

- 55 Nextel Cup victories
- 1989 Cup champion
- 1994 Cup Rookie of the Year
- Fourth on career earnings list
- Finished in top 10 in season points 15 times

a 14th-place finish in the Budweiser Shootout. His 22nd Nextel Cup season, which has been dubbed "Rusty's Last Call," officially got under way with a 10th-place finish in the Daytona 500, the race he can't claim among his 55 wins and the one he wanted the most.

"I wanted to win this race, but that's OK," said Wallace, who started 36th and advanced all the way to fifth before dropping back. "It really isn't OK, but I told everybody if I didn't win, it wouldn't be the end of the world. ... I'm done with it. I've had a lot of fun, and I enjoy it."

Wallace, who wrecked during Daytona qualifying and had to switch to his backup car, finished

in the top 10 nine times in 23 Daytona 500s.

His best finish in NASCAR's most prestigious race was third in 2001. He led another year with 10 laps to go, and in 1993 was third "with me, Dale Jarrett and (Dale) Earnhardt going for the win" when he was hit by another car and barrel-rolled down the backstretch.

"I haven't won the Daytona 500 and I doubt there's too many people out there who are not aware of that fact," said Wallace, the 1989 series champion and fourth on the career earnings list with nearly \$44 million. "I got close many, many times."

Still, his farewell season is about more than that elusive Daytona win. And forget nostalgia, Wallace wanted to approach 2005 like any other year.

"I'm real intent to try to win more races," he said. "I want to go out on top. I don't want to go out fading. ... I'm going to be rockin' and rollin' and go wide open all year."

Wallace has finished top 10 in season points 16 times. He ended a 105-race winless streak last year but was still 16th, two spots

lower than in 2003 when a streak of 10 straight top-10 seasons ended.

"You always hear about the importance of making first impressions," he said. "But for us, we're determined to leave some great last impressions."

Once full-time driving is done, Wallace won't be bored.

He hopes the Busch Series team he owns, running its first full schedule this year, will be a championship contender by 2006.

He also will spend more time on his car dealership business and with 17-year-old son Stephen, an aspiring NASCAR driver who will race in the Hootters Pro Cup Series this year.

Not to mention more time with his wife, Patti, playing golf and his duties as part-owner of the Penske team.

"What I'm going to have to do is just get in and go, and figure it out as I go," Wallace said. "We'll adjust as the year goes on. I've never gone one year in my life where I've been able to plan two years ahead. For me, to plan two weeks ahead is pretty tough for me."

"There will be a lot of excitement. Sometimes there will be tears in your beer."

### NEXTEL CUP

#### Rate 2:

**UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400**  
Las Vegas Speedway  
8 p.m. Sunday CET,  
A.M. Pacific.

**Last race:** Greg Biffle took the lead on lap 228 and held off a hard-charging Jimmie Johnson to win the Auto Club 500 at Fontana, Calif., on Feb. 27. Biffle came back from as far as 30th place.

**Last year:** Matt Kenseth won his second straight race by taking the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400.

### Driver to watch: Matt Kenseth

The 2003 Cup champion has won the past two Nextel Cup races at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, despite starting 25th and 17th. Kenseth finished 26th at Fontana on Feb. 27 and was next to last in the Daytona 500, he drives a Ford, a make that has won five of the seven Nextel Cup races in Las Vegas.



### DRIVER STANDINGS

After 2 of 36 races

1. Kurt Busch	340
2. Jimmie Johnson	335
3. Mark Martin	301
4. Carl Edwards	287
5. Greg Biffle	273
6. Elliott Sadler	272
7. Tony Stewart	268
8. Rusty Wallace	268
9. Sterling Marlin	260
10. Jeff Gordon	258
11. Dale Jarrett	248
12. Ryan Newman	246
13. Kevin Harvick	239
14. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	237
15. Mike Bliss	236
16. Kyle Petty	231
17. Jamie McMurray	227
18. Scott Riggs	224
19. Kevin Lepage	208
20. Brian Vickers	205

### BUSCH SERIES

This week: Sam's Town 300 at Las Vegas (race-delayed, 9 a.m. CET, Sunday).

**Last race:** Defending champion Martin Truex Jr. won the Australian Grand Prix in a weekend highlighted by rule changes and a sudden drop in qualifying that ended Michael Schumacher's hopes of defending his title. Schumacher crashed out with 15 laps remaining after starting on the back row of the grid because of an engine change.

**Next race:** Aaron's 312, March 19, Hampton, Ga.

### FORMULA ONE

**Last race:** Italian Giancarlo Fisichella won the season-opening Australian Grand Prix in a weekend highlighted by rule changes and a sudden drop in qualifying that ended Michael Schumacher's hopes of defending his title. Schumacher crashed out with 15 laps remaining after starting on the back row of the grid because of an engine change.

**Next race:** Malaysian Grand Prix, March 20, Kuala Lumpur.

### INDY RACING

**Last race:** Dan Wheldon led 158 of 200 laps en route to a dominant win in the season-opening Toyota Indy 300 at Homestead.

**Next race:** XM Satellite Radio Indy 200, March 15, Avondale, Ariz.

### CRAFTSMAN TRUCKS

**Last race:** Steve Park earned his first truck series win by taking the American Racing Wheels 200 at Fontana, Calif., on Feb. 25. Park had his first serious head injury in the series in February 2001, seven months after he won the first race.

**Next race:** World Financial Group 200, March 18, Hampton, Ga.

Standings for other series on Page 24.

# Congress subpoenas 7 baseball players

By HOWARD FENDRICH

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Major League Baseball might be convinced that its new, get-tough policy is enough to rid the sport of steroids.

Conversely, apparently, is not.

Less than two months after baseball and its players hailed the ban on performance plan and just a week after testing began at spring training — a House committee called in a handful of the sport's biggest stars to explain themselves, including Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa.

Baseball balked at the subpoenas issued Wednesday for a total of seven players to testify at the March 17 hearing of the House Government Reform Committee and vowed to take the fight to court, if necessary. The committee also demanded a variety of documents and records of baseball's drug tests.

Stanley Brand, a lawyer for the baseball commissioner's office, said the committee had no jurisdiction, was trying to violate baseball's first amendment privacy rights, and was attempting to "satisfy their prurient interest into who may and may not have engaged in this activity."

Reacting to Brand's comments, committee spokesman David Marin said: "Mr. Brand has his facts wrong. He failed to recognize that House rules give this committee the authority to investigate any matter at any time, and we are authorized to request or compel testimony and document production related to any investigation."

"It's a shame that Major League Base-

## Panel chair calls for all U.S. sports to adopt a single drug-testing plan

ball has resorted to hiding behind 'legalese' — and inaccurate 'legalese' at that."

On Thursday, the chairman of a House panel said that all major U.S. sports leagues should work toward a single testing plan.

"Our elite athletic organizations, both professional and amateur, should establish uniform, world-class, drug-testing standards that are as consistent and robust as our criminal laws in this area," said Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla. "Nothing less should be tolerated."

Stearns' comments came at the opening of a hearing of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee he chairs. Labor lawyers from Major League Baseball and the National Football League were to testify later.

The other players subpoenaed to appear next week were Jose Canseco — who recently published a book outlining allegations of steroid use by McGwire and others — Jason Giambi, Curt Schilling, Rafael Palmeiro and Frank Thomas. Also called were players' association head Donald Fehr, baseball executive vice presidents Russ Manfread and Sandy Alderson, and San Diego Padres general manager Kevin Towers.

Canseco, Fehr and Manfread have agreed to testify, with Manfread appearing on behalf of Commissioner Bud Selig. Before the subpoenas were issued, Brand told the committee the other players were declining invitations to appear.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the hearing will take place as scheduled.

Under pressure from Congress and under the shadow of a grand jury investigation into an alleged steroid-distribution ring, Major League Baseball and its players' association agreed in January to a tougher steroid-testing program. The agreement will suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round.

Ownership and the union patted themselves on the back when the deal was struck, with Fehr saying at the time: "I will be surprised if over time this doesn't take care of the problem virtually completely."

Even Sen. John McCain, who had threatened baseball with legislation if it didn't strengthen its drug policy, sounded satisfied back in January. "It appears to be a significant breakthrough."

On Saturday, Selig announced that the number of positive tests for steroids in baseball dropped to between 1 to 2 percent last season.

"I am very confident that we will effec-

tively rid our sport of steroids in this coming season," he said.

But committee chairman Rep. Tom Davis and ranking Democrat Rep. Henry Waxman said in a statement Wednesday that "we need to better understand the steps MLB is taking to get a handle on the steroid issue, and whether news of those steps — and the public health danger posed by steroid use — is reaching America's youth."

Stearns' House Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection subcommittee also was scheduled to hear from Donald Hooton of Plano, Texas, whose son was a steroid user and committed suicide, and Dr. Ralph Hale, chairman of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which oversees drug testing for Olympic sports.

Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman, Joe Barton, R-Texas, said this could be the first of a series of hearings on the issue and that at some point subpoenas might be issued for commissioners of the major sports leagues.

"The time has come to put an end to this mess and reclaim sports as competition," he said.

Barton said use of performance-enhancing drugs is tainting sports and its stars, noting that as San Francisco Giants star Barry Bonds pursues the career home run record there are questions about whether he has been aided by steroids.

"With Babe Ruth, people didn't worry about him taking steroids. They worried him eating another hot dog," Barton said.

Associated Press Writer Larry Margasak in Washington and AP Sports Writer Ronald Blum in New York contributed to this report.

# Bonds works on fielding skills

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Barry Bonds' swing looks ready to be tested in an exhibition game. The status of his recovering right knee remains uncertain.

Bonds took batting practice for the third straight day Wednesday and also shagged flyballs in left field for the first time all spring, a sign that he's progressing in his rehabilitation from arthroscopic knee surgery on Jan. 31.

The San Francisco slugger had four turns in the batter's box at Scottsdale Stadium before the rest of the Giants headed to Phoenix to play the Oakland Athletics.

With hitting coach Joe Lefebvre looking on, Bonds hit four home runs, all to right field or right-center. One hit a tree.

"It's like Ted Williams used to hit," manager Felipe Alou said. "He picks up the bat, hits line drives and puts the ball over the fence. He's still favoring his knee a bit, but the timing is there."

Between hitting sessions, Bonds smiled as he leaned against the backstop, and took a few practice swings while waiting his turn.

Bonds hollered at himself in frustration after some swings, but made contact on nearly everything he saw.

In left field, he shagged balls for about five minutes, even making a behind-the-back catch. The 40-year-old Bonds expects to be ready for opening day, April 5 against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Back at his locker for a brief break to change shoes for a work-

## Spring training

out and to undergo rehab on his knee, Bonds let out a sigh and said, "I'm too tired."

Bonds begins his 20th big league season with 703 homers, third on the career list behind Babe Ruth (714) and Hank Aaron (755).

At Mesa, Ariz., rather than risking serious injury, Kerry Wood figured it was safer to cut short his start after experiencing tightness in his shoulder. Wood felt tightness during the second inning of the Chicago Cubs' 6-5 loss to the Texas Rangers, but finished the inning. He stopped while warming up for the third and walked off the field after talking with a trainer. He called his exit from the game "precautionary."

"The inning before, I felt tightness in the shoulder," Wood said. "Everything felt great. I came in and pitched, and everything felt great. It was just a little bit of tightness, and it's too early to be messing around with anything right now. We thought it would be best to stop down for the day."

Wood missed the entire 1999 season after undergoing Tommy John surgery and he was out for two months last year with tendinitis in his right triceps. Wood was examined Wednesday by a team doctor and Cubs trainer Mark O'Neal, who described the ailment as "generic shoulder tightness."

Wood said he would be able to make his scheduled start Monday against the Chicago White Sox.

At Sarasota, Fla., the Cincinnati Reds announced center fielder Ken Griffey Jr. will play Thursday for the first time this spring after taking a slow approach to his rehabilitation from a torn hamstring. The Reds plan to use Griffey as a designated hitter in their home game against the Detroit after receiving permission from the league and the Tigers. He also has permission to be the DH in Cincinnati's next three home games.

"It gives me a chance to see some live pitches, to work more on timing," Griffey said.

At Fort Myers, Fla., the Boston Red Sox expect Wade Miller to miss the first month of the season while he rehabilitates from a shoulder injury. He spent the last three months of last season on the disabled list with Houston. The Red Sox, hoping he could improve a rotation that lost Pedro Martinez and Derek Lowe, signed him as a free agent.

"I know I don't want to miss what I don't want to miss," Miller said. "So I decided to take it slow now and miss the beginning of the season and, hopefully, come back for the last five months."

Heavy rains across Florida prompted the cancellation of all 10 exhibition games scheduled for Wednesday.

In Kissimmee, Roger Clemens threw 60 pitches in a simulated game rather than wait to see if the Houston Astros and Atlanta Braves would play.

**Royals 6, Mariners 0:** At Surprise, Jose Lima gave up five sin-



Giants outfielder Barry Bonds, who is recovering from knee surgery, took part in fielding drills Wednesday for the first time this spring.

gles and walked three in three innings for Kansas City. Angel Berroa had three hits — two doubles — two RBIs and two runs scored.

**Athletics 5, Giants 1:** At Phoenix, Giants ace Jason Schmidt allowed three hits in three innings with three strikeouts and a walk.



# Knights' shield

## Shields paces Rutgers past Irish; Georgetown, W. Virginia also win

BY JIM O'CONNELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ricky Shields had never played beyond the first round of the Big East tournament. The senior guard from Rutgers finally got that victory Wednesday night and may have ended the

NCAA tournament hopes of Notre Dame.

"That was one of the goals I wanted to achieve before I left here," Shields said. "I did not want it to end without that."

Big East

Shields scored 21 points, including the first four of Rutgers' game-closing 8-0 run, and the Scarlet Knights beat Notre Dame 72-65.

Rutgers (10-18), seeded 11th, advanced to a matchup with third-seeded and 16th-ranked Syracuse (24-6) in the quarterfinals on Thursday night at Madison Square Garden.

"Now we get a chance to match up with Syracuse again," Shields said, recalling an 86-84 loss to the Orange in which the Scarlet Knights blew an 18-point half-time lead. "It feels good to have all five guys clicking like we did early in the year and maybe we can keep clicking here for some more wins."

The loss may have ended the NCAA tournament at-large hopes for Notre Dame (17-11), which has lost four of five.

"We'll find out our fate on Sunday," Irish coach Mike Brey said in ending talk about an at-large bid.

Shields scored on a drive with 1:15 left to give the Scarlet Knights the lead for good at 66-65. He then stole the ball from Colin Falls and went the length of the court for a layup with 57 seconds left.

Rutgers closed the game by going 4-for-5 from the free-throw line over the final 32 seconds.

**Georgetown 56, Seton Hall 51:** Darrell Owens was perfect on four three-point attempts and scored all 14 of his points over the final eight minutes as Georgetown (17-11) snapped a five-game losing streak.

The seventh-seeded Hoyas had to win to have any chance at an at-large berth in the NCAA tournament. Their next opponent is second-seeded and 12th-ranked Connecticut (21-6) in the quarterfinals Thursday night.

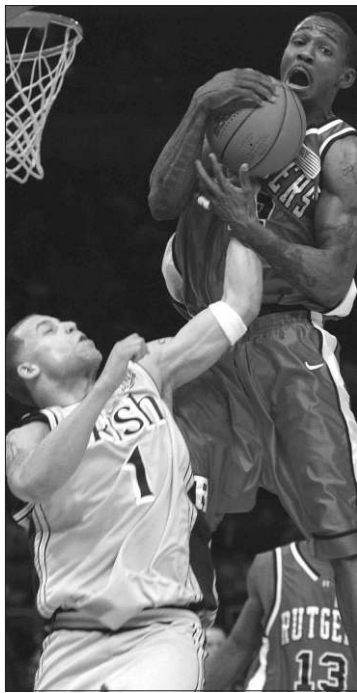
Owens' first three-point shot ended a 7:42 drought without a field goal and brought the Hoyas within 44-36 with 7:59 left.

His third three, with 3:37 left, cut the deficit to 49-46 and his last gave Georgetown the lead for good at 51-49 with 1:02 left.

**West Virginia 82, Providence 59:** Kevin Pittsnogle matched his career high with five three-pointers and finished with 24 points for the Mountaineers (19-9).

The eighth-seeded Mountaineers played top-seeded and seventh-ranked Boston College (24-3) on Thursday in the quarterfinals at Madison Square Garden.

West Virginia may have clinched an NCAA tournament berth with its seventh victory in nine games, a stretch that included two victories over nationally ranked Pittsburgh.



Rutgers' Ricky Shields (2) grabs a rebound away from Notre Dame's Chris Thomas (1) during Wednesday night's Big East tournament game at Madison Square Garden. Rutgers advanced with a 72-65 victory.

# La Salle tips Massachusetts in overtime

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Jermaine Thomas and Mike St. John scored all 11 points in overtime to lead La Salle to a 70-64 victory over Massachusetts in the first round of the Atlantic 10 tournament.

La Salle (10-18), which finished last in the conference's West Division, played the last two minutes of regulation and the overtime period without leading scorer Steven Smith, who left with an eye injury after scoring 19 points.

St. John broke a 61-61 tie with a reverse layup after his first shot was blocked. He was 4-for-4 in overtime, and Thomas hit three free throws in four attempts in the final 49.9 seconds.

Rashaun Freeman had 19 points for UMass (16-12), which came from 12 down to force overtime. The Minutemen had won five games in overtime this season, one short of the NCAA record set by Wake Forest in 1983-1984.

**Richmond 68, Rhode Island 60:** Kevin Steenberge scored 22

## Conference tourneys

points as Richmond (14-14) won an Atlantic 10 tournament matchup of teams with losing records.

Jermaine Bucknor added 17 points and Andres Sandoval added 10, six coming on free throws in the final minutes.

Will Daniels led 22 points for Rhode Island (6-22), which lost 11 of its last 13 games and finished 1-13 away from home.

**Fordham 65, Duquesne 53:** Freshman Marcus Stort scored a season-high 31 points and Fordham (15-15) finally earned an Atlantic 10 tournament victory in its 10th try.

Fordham had lost the opener each year since joining the conference in the 1995-1996.

Duquesne (8-22) was 0-for-21 on three-pointers and lost for the third time in four games.

**Dayton 78, St. Vincent 48:** Norman Plummer scored 18

points and Dayton (18-10) earned a rematch with Temple in the second round of the A-10 tourney.

Dayton (18-10), which finished third in the West Division, dropped a 78-70 decision last night to Temple, which was second in the East Division.

Michael Lee scored 14 points for St. Vincent (2-26).

## Big West

**UC Irvine 80, Idaho 67:** At Anaheim, Calif., Aaron Fitzgerald scored a career-high 30 points on 9-for-15 shooting to lead UC Irvine into the second round of the Big West tournament.

UC Irvine (16-12), seeded fifth, plays fourth-seeded Cal State Northridge in the second round.

Idaho (8-22) closed within three after Lionel Davis completed a three-point play with 2:26 to play, but Fitzgerald stopped the rally with his sixth three-point shot of the game, putting the Antelopes up 73-67 with 1:59 to play.

**UC Santa Barbara 55, Long Beach St. 49:** Joe See scored 19

points — 14 in the second half — as UC Santa Barbara overcame a 12-point second-half deficit.

See, held without a field goal in the first half, went 3-for-4 from behind the three-point line in the second half for the Gauchos (11-17).

Long Beach (10-20) led 43-31 with 12:32 to play after an 11-1 run featuring eight points by Jibrell Hodges. Santa Barbara responded by scoring the next 11 points, the start of a 21-3 surge.

## MEAC

**Hampton 81, Florida A&M 72:** At Richmond, Va., Jeff Granger scored 26 points and Devyn Green added 24 as Hampton (16-12) advanced to the second round of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference tournament.

**Delaware St. 66, Bethune-Cookman 43:** Barrin Shine scored 13 points and Aaron Williams and Jahsha Blunt each added 12 to lead Delaware State (17-13), which jumped to a 17-3 lead and cruised from there over Bethune-Cookman (6-20).

# TCU stops Marquette; DePaul's skid ends

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Corey Santee's three-pointer with 12.8 seconds gave Texas Christian a 60-57 overtime victory against Marquette in the opening round of the Conference USA tournament Wednesday, keeping alive the Horned Frogs' hopes of an NCAA tournament bid and severely damaging Marquette's hopes.

Aaron Curtis' free throw tied it 57-57 with 18.8 seconds to go, leaving Marquette (19-11) plenty of time to get for a final shot. But Marcus Sloan slapped away the inbound pass — the last of Marquette's 23 turnovers — and got the ball to Santee for the deciding basket.

Marquette still had time for a tying shot, but Steve Novak mishandled the ball at the top of the key and couldn't get off a shot before time expired.

**DePaul 81, Tulane 71:** Sammy Mejia and Quement Greer each scored 18 points as DePaul (19-9) snapped a two-game losing streak just in time to keep its NCAA tournament hopes alive.

Drake Diener added 14 points for DePaul and Draclon Burns had 10 points.

Tulane (10-18) had snapped a five-game winning skid by beating East Carolina last weekend to earn the No. 12 seed, but the Green Wave had little left for the tournament.

Tulane closed to 37-30 with 2:11 left in the half, but Diener hit two three-pointers and Burns added another three with 39.7 seconds left for a 46-32 halftime lead. DePaul eventually pushed the margin to 65-46 after a bucket by Jamal Nichols with 12:34 to go and coasted home.

**Memphis 79, Saint Louis 59:** Rodney Carney ended his shooting slump with 23 points and Jerome Hunsley added 22 for Memphis (17-14), which ended a four-game losing streak that doomed its hopes for an at-large bid in the NCAA tournament.

Carney, who'd missed 18 of his last 19 shots, missed only one of his nine Wednesday and hit all three of his three-point attempts.

Luke Meyer had 12 points to lead Saint Louis (9-21), which got no closer than 20 points in the final 8:38.

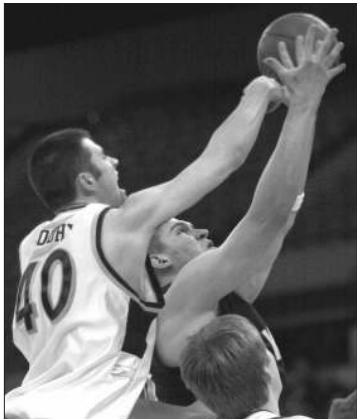
**South Florida 69, Houston 64:** Terrence Leather, who finished with 25 points and 14 rebounds, hit a basket to snap a 64-64 tie with 26 seconds left and the Bulls (13-15) ended the NCAA hopes of Houston (18-13) and first-year coach Tom Penders.

Houston has lost eight straight games in March dating back to March 1, 2003.

Lanny Smith finished with 21 points for Houston.



# Montana, Fairleigh Dickinson join the fun



Montana's Matt Dlouhy (40) blocks a shot by Weber State's Lance Allred during the first half of the Big Sky Conference tournament final.

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — As first-year coach Larry Krystkowiak sees it, the Montana Grizzlies are in the best possible position heading into the NCAA tournament. They're riding a six-game winning streak and they've already tasted a higher level of play against opponents such as Stanford and Gonzaga.

"I'm not sure we can compete with everybody, but we're going to go down swinging," he said. "We've got a game plan now, and we're going to take our best shot."

Montana earned a bid to the NCAA tournament by holding off Weber State's late rally for a 63-61 victory in the Big Sky Conference title game Wednesday night. Kamarr Davis had 19 points for the Grizzlies, who are making their first trip to the tournament since 2002, when they were eliminated in the first round by Oregon.

Montana, which claimed its fifth Big Sky postseason title, didn't have it easy against Weber State, which methodically clipped away at a 10-point second-half deficit.

Montana was up 54-44 with 4:17 left after Virgil Matthews' dunk.

The Wildcats narrowed it to 60-58 on Terrell Stovall's three-pointer with 1:03 left. Mon-

## Conference finals

tana's Kevin Criswell missed a layup before Stovall was called for an offensive foul on the other end and the Grizzlies got the ball.

Matt Martin made both his free throws after getting fouled with 14.4 seconds left to make it 62-58, but Weber State's Coric Riggs hit a three-pointer with 4.2 seconds remaining. Davis was fouled with 28 seconds to go and added drama by missing his first free throw before hitting his second for the final margin.

"We just needed to keep our heads," Davis said. "Play hard, play smart and play together like coach has been preaching all year," he said.

Krystkowiak screamed and raised his hands in victory as his players celebrated at center court.

A 78-62 loss to Gonzaga and an 84-66 loss to Stanford merely served to toughen the Grizzlies.

"We're better now," Krystkowiak said. "We had a new staff and new players and were not sure where to hang our hats."

Criswell and Martin each added 11 points for the Grizzlies (18-12), who defeated Montana State 79-67 in the semifinals Tuesday.

Lance Allred had 21 points and 12 rebounds for Weber State (14-16), which upset top-seeded Portland State 71-61 to advance to the final.

"We had things going in the first half and couldn't finish it off," Weber State coach Joe Cravens said. "It's disappointing because we didn't play the way we have been."

## Northeast

**Fairleigh Dickinson 58, Wagner 52:** At Hackensack, N.J., Italy's Andrea Crosariol took advantage of an injury to Wagner's best player to score 18 points and lead the second-seeded Knights to their first NCAA berth in seven years. The 7-foot center's performance was a two-point crossair of his career high — and totally unexpected. He scored just two points in 31 minutes in the previous two tournaments games, including zero in a semifinals.

Crosariol provided the big push going against Sean Munson, the Seahawks' leading scorer and rebounder. Munson averaged 17.5 points and 12 rebounds in two earlier games against Fairleigh Dickinson (20-8), but he was slowed by back spasms.

Durrell Vinson had 14 points and eight rebounds for Wagner (18-12), who was trying to cap an amazing turnaround after a 2-15 start.

## Seeding, at-large slots no small chore this year

BY MICHAEL MAROT

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Choosing 34 teams to receive at-large bids to the NCAA tournament is always a difficult chore for the selection committee.

Committee chairman Bob Bowlsby believes the more daunting task this year will be seeding the field of 65.

On Wednesday, one day before the 10 committee members began meeting in Indianapolis, Bowlsby acknowledged in a conference call that sorting out the top half of the 65-team field might create the most debate.

"Between lines two and eight, it's going to be pretty muddy," Bowlsby said. "We've got a lot of work to do there."

The challenge has already begun.

Coaches at schools like Indiana and New Mexico are lobbying for spots in the tournament.

Analysts are arguing how to split up the three Atlantic Coast Conference teams ranked among the nation's top five. No. 4 Kentucky and No. 6 Louisville have now taken their bitter in-state rivalry to a national level, which could have big implications when this year's pairings are announced Sunday.

Want more? Try Oklahoma State and Kansas, two teams that stumbled late in the season but which played in the Big 12 a Conference Bowlsby said has the No. 2 power ranking.

At this stage, the committee in-

sists nothing, not even Illinois as a top seed, is certain.

"While Illinois has had a foregone conclusion that they or anybody else is a No. 1 seed," Bowlsby said. "There's still a lot of basketball to be played."

Most of the major conference tournaments won't end until this weekend, making the committee's predicament even tougher.

Bowlsby, Iowa's athletic director whose Hawkeyes also are in contention for a bid, said the committee will closely monitor this week's games, especially those that pit teams like Indiana and Minnesota against one another. Both are so-called bubble teams and will meet for the third time Friday after splitting the first two meetings.

But it's not just the teams trying to get into the tournament that the committee will watch.

"There are times where we might say 'If A wins, we'll put them on the three line, and if B wins, we'll put them on the three line and A on the four line,'" Bowlsby said.

Everything appears debatable. The final choices will almost certainly draw some complaints. After five years on the committee, Bowlsby expects nothing less.

"I think there's more parity in college basketball and I think it's a better game. That makes it tougher," he said. "The selection process is like a block-charge call, somebody will always be unhappy."

## Conference tournaments

America East		Big 12		Friday	
Championship	Saturday	Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Friday
Northeastern at Vermont		Missouri 70, Nebraska 67	Iowa State vs. Baylor	Utah/Colorado State vs. UNLV/Wyoming	Nevada vs. Boise State
Atlantic Coast		Friday		Saturday	
Championship	Sunday	Championship	Sunday	Championship	Sunday
Clemson 84, Maryland 72		Oklahoma vs. Missouri	Texas Tech vs. Iowa State/Baylor	Arkansas vs. Tennessee	Vanderbilt vs. Auburn
North Carolina vs. Florida 3		Kansas AAM vs. Kansas State	Oklahoma State vs. Texas A&M/Kansas State	Alabama vs. S. Carolina/Mississippi	Florida vs. Mississippi
Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
Championship	Sunday	Championship	Sunday	Championship	Sunday
Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech		UC Irvine 60, Idaho 6	Santa Barbara 58, Long Beach State 49	Cal Fullerton vs. UC Santa Barbara	Cal Northridge vs. UC Irvine
Duke vs. Miami/Virginia		Big West		Friday	
Saturday		Saturday		Sunday	
Championship	Sunday	Championship	Sunday	Championship	Sunday
Richmond 65, Rhode Island 60		Texas Christian 69, Marquette 57, OT	DePaul 81, Tulane 71	Memphis 79, Saint Louis 69	Houston 64
La Salle 70, Massachusetts 67		La Salle 70, Massachusetts 67	Dayton 78, St. Bonaventure 48	Richmond 51	Xavier vs. La Salle
Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
Championship	Sunday	Championship	Sunday	Championship	Sunday
Georgetown 56, Seton Hall 51		West Virginia 78, Boston College 72	Kennedy vs. Pittsburgh	Connecticut vs. Georgetown	Syracuse vs. North Carolina
Saturday		Sunday		Monday	
Championship	Sunday	Championship	Sunday	Championship	Sunday
West Virginia 78, Boston College 72		Connecticut vs. Georgetown	Syracuse vs. North Carolina	Championship	Sunday
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West Virginia 78, Boston College 72		Connecticut vs. Georgetown	Syracuse vs. North Carolina	Championship	Sunday
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West Virginia 78, Boston College 72		Connecticut vs. Georgetown	Syracuse vs. North Carolina	Championship	Sunday
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Saturday		Sunday		Monday	
Championship	Sunday	Championship	Sunday	Championship	Sunday
West Virginia 78, Boston College 72		Connecticut vs. Georgetown	Syracuse vs. North Carolina	Championship	Sunday



# Miller extends lead in overall World Cup standings

The Associated Press

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland — Michael Walchhofer won the World Cup downhill title Thursday after finishing fourth in the season's final race, while American Bode Miller

strengthened his lead for the overall title with a second-place showing.

Miller gained 80 points to extend his lead over Austrian Benjamin Raich to 128 points in the overall standings. Miller and Raich will compete in the remaining three races: super giant slalom, giant slalom and slalom. Miller will clinch the title in Friday's super-G if he wins the race and Raich finishes out of the top 15.

Norway's Lasse Kjus won Thursday's race in 1 minute, 24.09 seconds for his first World Cup downhill victory in over a



Austria's Michael Walchhofer won the World Cup downhill title.

year. Miller, who needed to win to have any chance to take the downhill season title, was 0.14 behind and finished 63 points behind Walchhofer. Fritz Strobl of Austria was third in 1:24.27.

**Goetschl wins downhill title**

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland — Renate Goetschl of Austria

won the final race of the season to clinch the women's World Cup downhill title Thursday, capturing the trophy for the fourth time in her career.

Goetschl entered the race with a 32-point lead over Germany's Hilde Gerg, who finished third in Thursday's race and 72 points behind Goetschl.

American Lindsey Kildow had a remote chance to win the downhill title but crashed Thursday.

American Julia Mancuso, a double bronze medalist in the world championships, tied for fourth with Janica Kostelic of Croatia.

Anja Paerson's 63-point lead over Kostelic in the overall standings was cut to 45 with three races remaining — a super giant slalom, giant slalom and slalom.

**Eis trails by seven in Qatar**

DOHA, Qatar — Pierre Fulke of Sweden skied 6-under 66 Thursday to take a one-stroke lead after

the first round of the Qatar Masters, while Ernie Els, the only player ranked in the top 50 in the field, struggled to a 73.

**Top panelist that investigated CU said commission was tilted**

PUEBLO, Colo. — A leader of an independent commission that investigated the Colorado football recruiting scandal said the panel was "stabbed in the back" and that football coach Gary Barnett should be fired.

Joyce Lawrence, a former state legislator who was co-chairwoman of the panel, told The Pueblo Chieftain on Tuesday that Barnett and other athletic department officials never revealed the existence of a "slush fund" mentioned in a report by a grand jury that conducted a separate probe.

"We've been stabbed in the back. They knew what they were doing, but they didn't reveal that to us or [university president Eliz-

abeth Hoffman] at the time," Lawrence said.

"Yes, Coach Barnett needs to be replaced," she added. "The football and athletic staff knew the [independent commission] wanted to know about all the money that was going into the program and they never told us about those cash boxes."

Both the independent commission and the grand jury investigated the football program last year and concluded that some players had arranged sex, drugs and alcohol for visiting athletes who were being recruited for the team.

The commission, which was appointed by the university's governing Board of Regents, issued a report in May criticizing Hoffman and others for lax oversight but did not call for anyone to be fired.

On Monday, Hoffman announced she was stepping down effective June 30 or when a successor is chosen.

**Caruth's lawyers appeal to overturn conviction**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Former Carolina Panthers wide receiver Rae Caruth returned to court Thursday in his latest attempt to overturn a 2001 conviction in the slaying of his pregnant girlfriend.

The appeal in Mecklenburg Superior Court challenges the admission of key prosecution evidence during Caruth's trial in late 2000: a 911 call from girlfriend Cherica Adams following the shooting and what the 24-year-old victim told a police officer at the scene and hospital.

The defense claims Adams' statements are hearsay and their introduction into evidence during the murder trial violated Caruth's constitutional right to confront his accuser.

Caruth, a first-round draft pick of the Panthers out of Colorado, is serving a sentence of at least 18 years and 11 months.

Adams was eight months pregnant with Caruth's baby when she was gunned down in a drive-by shooting on Nov. 16, 1999, in south Charlotte. Doctors saved her son, Chancellor, in an emergency Cesarean. But Adams, shot four times, died a month later. Born prematurely and in distress, Chancellor has cerebral palsy.

**R.I. legislators take up high-priced autographs**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — After the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918, some fans were willing to pay hundreds of dollars for memorabilia from the team.

Like other pro athletes before them, Red Sox players cashed in on their triumph by appearing at large-scale autograph signing events to meet fans and sell their signatures for upward of \$100.

A Senate committee on Thursday takes up legislation that would likely put a stop to such events in Rhode Island.

**Armstrong drops out of Paris-Nice race**

CRAPONNE-SUR-ARZON, France — Six-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong dropped out of the Paris-Nice race after the third stage with a sore throat.

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## SPORTS

Racing Stripes: Nextel Cup veteran Wallace has mixed feelings about last season behind the wheel full-time, Page 25



# Army star Davis dead at 80

## RB won Heisman in '46, helped Cadets win three national titles

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Glenn Davis, who won the Heisman Trophy in 1946 and helped lead Army to three national championships, died Wednesday. He was 80.

Davis died of complications from prostate cancer at his home in La Quinta, located about 110 miles east of Los Angeles, said his son, Ralph Davis.

Glenn Davis will be buried at West Point, near his former coach, Col. Earl "Red" Blaik, according to his son.

Davis starred as a halfback for Army when it won national titles in 1944 and 1945. The Cadets and Notre Dame played to a scoreless tie in 1946, and split the national championship.

Davis teamed with fullback Felix "Doc" Blanchard, the 1945 Heisman winner, as one of the most heralded backfields in the history of college football. He was known as "Mr. Outside" to Blanchard's "Mr. Inside."

Davis scored 59 touchdowns and gained 4,129 yards in rushing and receiving in his college career.

He still holds NCAA records for most yards gained per play in one season, averaging 11.5 yards per carry in 1945; 8.3 career yards per carry; and he and Blanchard share the record for most touchdowns (97) and points (585) scored by teammates in a career.

In 1946, Davis won the Heisman and was voted male athlete of the year by The Associated Press. Davis has the best voting record of any Heisman candidate, finishing second in 1944 and 1945 before winning the award.

"He was one of the best," said former Army guard Joe Steffy, who played with Davis in 1945 and 1946.

"He left an impression. The

first time I met him, I was in awe. What he meant to the military academy and the game of college football needs no explanation."

In 1944, after a famous season-ending win over Navy, Gen. Douglas MacArthur even took time out from his war duties to send this wire: "The greatest of all Army teams — We have stopped the war to celebrate your magnificent success. MacArthur."

A telephone call to Blanchard's home near San Antonio, Texas, was answered by his granddaughter, who said he had already gone to bed. Blanchard won the Heisman in 1945.

After serving his military obligation, Davis joined the Los Angeles Rams, playing on the team that won the 1951 NFL championship before a knee injury cut his career short in 1952.

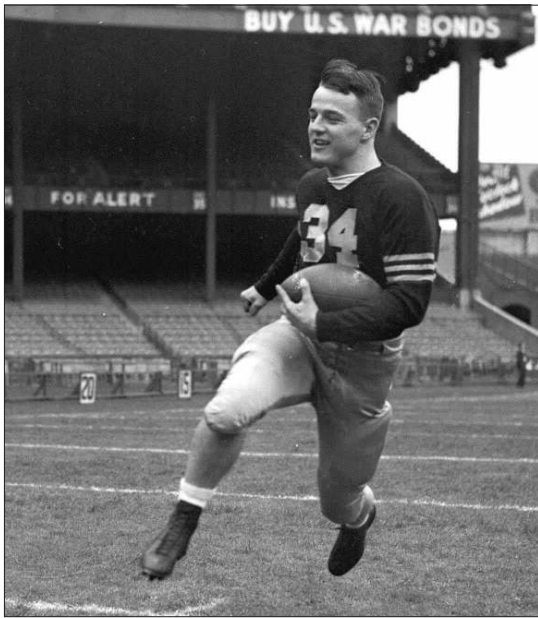
Renowned for his lightning speed, Davis was coming off a record-breaking career at Bonita High School in LaVerne, Calif., where he scored an amazing 256 points during his senior year, when he was persuaded to play for Army in 1943.

The 5-9, 170-pounder became an instant star. Davis scored his first Army touchdown on a 4-yard run in a 27-0 season-opening win over Villanova, threw a touchdown pass in a 42-0 win over Colgate, ran 82 yards for a score in a 52-0 shellacking of Columbia, and returned a kick 75 yards for a touchdown in a 39-7 victory over Yale.

"He was the fastest man in football," Steffy said. "He was a great athlete, believe me."

Davis and Blanchard were national sports heroes, appearing on the cover of Time magazine in November 1945. Despite the accolades, Davis over the years showed a certain modesty about his prowess.

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Army's Glenn Davis carries the ball in this Nov. 28, 1944 file photo in New York. Davis, who won the Heisman Trophy in 1946 and helped lead Army to a 27-0-1 record and three national championships from 1944 to 1946, died Wednesday of complications from prostate cancer at his home in La Quinta, Calif. He was 80.

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